THE NEW
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INDIA, CHINA MADE SOME PROGRESS IN DISENGAGEMENT, SAYS JAISHANKAR

India and China have made 'some progress' in disengagement, the foreign minister said, while interacting with the Indian diaspora in Brisbane

IT OPENS UP POSSIBILITY FOR OTHER STEPS: EAM

"In terms of India and China, yes, we have made some progress," he said, adding that the disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh, agreed by India and China, is a welcome step. S Jaishankar said it could open up the possibility that "other steps could happen" that would improve the ties further. He arrived in Australia on Saturday and will fly to Singapore later

INDIA HAS BIG ROLE TO PLAY IN WEST ASIA

- Jaishankar said India is "trying to do something" to bring peace in both Ukraine and West Asia. In case of the latter, India is one of the few countries that can mediate between Israel and Iran to stop a wider war
- He said there's genuine goodwill and desire among nations to work with India. "We see a sentiment overall for India to succeed," Jaishankar said

Fourth

INDIAN CONSULATE IN AUSTRALIA TO BE INAUGURATED IN BRISBANE BY JAISHANKAR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

12 injured as terrorists lob grenade on Srinagar crowd

CRPF vehicle was the target; L-G asks forces to crush terror outfits

FAYAZ WANI @ New Delhi

A day after Srinagar witnessed the first encounter in two years, militants on Sunday carried out a grenade attack at the crowded flea market in the city, injuring 12 people, including two women. The condition of one person is critical. After the attack, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha directed security officials to use full force and crush the terror outfits.

Sources said militants lobbed a grenade towards a vehicle of paramilitary CRPF at Sunday Market near Tourist Reception Centre. The attack happened in the afternoon when the place was crowded with people thronging the flea market to buy woollens and other items.

"The grenade missed the intended target and exploded on a road. It caused splinter injuries to those present on the spot," a police officer said.

The injured were evacuated to nearby SMHS hospital, where doctors attended to them. Medical Superintendent Dr Tasneem Showkat told *TNIE* that of the injured, one is in critical condition, while the rest are stable.

Forensic team collects samples from the attack site in Srinagar on Sunday | PTI

The grenade attack caused panic in the area with the people running helter-skelter. The grenade attack took place a day after an encounter in Khyanyar of Srinagar in which a top Lashkar commander was killed. There has been a surge in militant violence and attacks in J&K after the civilian government led by Omar Abdullah took charge as chief minister on October 16. "The last few days have been dominated by headlines of attacks and encounters in parts of the Valley. Today's news of a grenade attack on innocent shoppers... is deeply disturbing. There can be no justification for targeting innocent civilians," Omar said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha spoke to DGP Nalin Prabhat and senior security officials. "Terrorists targeting citizens will have to pay a very heavy price for their actions. You have full freedom to crush terror outfits and leave no stone unturned to complete this mission," Sinha told the senior security officials.

J&K ASSEMBLY SESSION STARTS TODAY

The Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will meet for a five-day session on Monday. NC leader Abdul Rahim Rather is set to be the Speaker

Will implement UCC, tribals to be exempt: Shah

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that the BJP will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand if it wins the upcoming Assembly elections in the state, but would keep the tribals out of the law's ambit.

"Uniform Civil Code will definitely be introduced in Jharkhand, but the tribal community will be kept out of its ambit," Shah said. "They (The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Congress) are spreading rumours that if the UCC is introduced in the state, the art and culture of the tribal population will be ruined," he said.

Releasing the BJP's manifesto, 'Sankalp Patra', for the upcoming elections in Jharkhand, Shah alleged that the JMM-led state government has failed to protect the tribal land from 'intruders'. He said if the BJP forms government in the state, it will bring laws to prevent the transfer of tribal land to infiltrators and take back the land already grabbed by them. "If the BJP forms government, we will make a law to return the land to the innocent tribals of Jharkhand," Shah said.

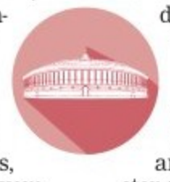
Training his guns on Soren, Shah said the CM insulted Champai Soren by unceremoniously removing him from the post of CM to satisfy his lust for power. Reacting to Shah's promise to implement the UCC, Soren vowed that neither the UCC nor the National Registry of Citizens will be implemented in the state. Senior BJP leaders including Jharkhand election incharge Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Assam CM and co-election incharge Himanta Biswa Sarma attended the function to launch the 'Sankalp Patra'.

Shah said BJP will launch 'GoGo Didi Yojna' in the state if elected. Under the scheme, ₹2,100 will be transferred to poor women on the 11th day of every month. Free LPG cylinders will be given to poor households on Diwali and Raksha Bandhan, he said. P8

WINTER SESSION LIKELY FROM NOV 25, CENTRE MAY INTRODUCE WAQF BILL

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE winter session of Parliament is likely to commence on November 25 and will continue until December 20, according to sources. During the session, the government will introduce the contentious One Nation One Election and Waqf bills. The results of the Jharkhand and Maharashtra assembly elections, which will come on November 23, will also have a significant bearing on the session.



Still smarting from the Haryana defeat, the Congress and its allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi are pinning their hopes on wresting power in Maharashtra while retaining the Hemant Soren-led government in Jharkhand. The results will dominate the tone and tenor of the session.

Sources said the government may also pass a resolution to grant full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, a crucial step towards reinstating constitutional rights and safeguarding the unique identity of the region's residents. Recently, J&K CM Omar Abdullah met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah to discuss the issues related to the UT, including early restoration of statehood.

According to sources, a special joint sitting of both Houses will be held on November 26 to mark the 75th anniversary of adopting the Constitution.

If the government introduces the One Nation, One Election Bill in Parliament, it will face stiff resistance as several opposition-ruled states are opposed to the proposal, saying it is against the Constitution.

EXPRESS READ

Waqf row: Politics behind BJP stir, says CM

Bengaluru: CM Siddaramaiah said that the protests by BJP at taluk offices on Monday over the Waqf issue was politically motivated. He said his government has ordered the withdrawal of notices issued to farmers P4

Naxals attack 2 cops in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

Sukma: Two Chhattisgarh police constables were injured when Naxalites, dressed as civilians, attacked them with sharp weapons at a weekly market in Sukma district on Sunday. The Naxalites also took away the service rifles of the cops

New study: King cobra has 4 variants, not just 1

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

IN ground-breaking research, well-known wildlife biologist **P Gowri Shankar** from Agumbe has proved that king cobra (Ophiophagus hannah) — the longest venomous snake in the world, has four different species. The discovery comes 185 years after it was first described in 1836. The king cobra has so far been considered as a single species. Gowri Shankar, who is known for his work on king cobra conservation, has led the study that spread across several countries in South and South East Asia and took 10 long years.

Gowri Shankar looked at widespread distribution of king cobras and hypothesised that king cobras could have multiple species. Many scientists had proposed similar hypotheses earlier, but could not establish them and this led to Gowri Shankar's PhD research. In 2012, he teamed up with various organisations and universities to plan and execute his study.

Under the supervision of Dr Kartik Shanker from IISc, Dr SK Dutta (Prof. Emeritus) and Prof Jacob Hoglund from Uppsala University, Sweden, he collected tissue samples of king cobras in different habitats to establish the different variants. P5

Director Guruprasad found hanging in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RENOWNED Kannada movie director, 52-year-old **Guruprasad** was found dead in an apartment complex in Madanayakanahalli police limits on the outskirts of the city on Sunday. The decomposed body of the director was found hanging from the ceiling fan hook. He is suspected to have died by suicide.

He was staying in a flat at Tata New Haven apartment in Dasanapura for the last eight months. The incident came to light around 11 am on Sunday after a security guard, who sensed a foul smell, put out a message in the apartment WhatsApp group. Initially, it was suspected that the smell was from the garbage. But later it was confirmed that it was from the director's flat. One of the guards, using a ladder, checked the director's flat and found him hanging. Guruprasad's birthday was on November 2.

Guruprasad, who hailed from Kanakapura, directed five movies, including actor Jaggesh-starrer 'Mata'. The director, who was arrested in a cheque-bounce case in January 2023, is suspected to have taken the extreme step due to financial issues. After a dispute with his first wife, he had married again. He was reportedly staying alone at the flat. The police suspect that he might have died a few days ago. P3

Gone with the spin in less than 10 days: Why India crumbled against Kiwis

GOMESH S @ Mumbai

INDIA did not have any tangible answer to New Zealand's, what seemed like, an infinite variety of cricket. If the hosts perished to some immaculate pace bowling under overcast conditions, almost England–like in Bengaluru, and later, on turning tracks in Pune and Mumbai, the batters scratched their heads like students struggling to find solutions to multiple problems. Only Risabh Pant stood among the ruins.

The ending seemed inevitable on Sunday. After all, for the nine days of cricket India and New Zealand have had in this series, the visitors outperformed India in almost every single one. The tenth day (of the three-Test series) was no different either as New Zealand became the first team to beat India in three consecutive Tests at home.

While Tom Latham's side was spot on in every move, captain Rohit Sharma's every move seemed to have backfired. He admitted as much after the loss here. "Something like this will be a low point in my career. I fully take responsibility for that as a captain. I have not been at the best of my abilities right from the start of the series. With the bat, I have not been good enough," Sharma said.

It all began in Bengaluru when Sharma misread the pitch and opted to bat. The chances of recovery were slim after the 46 all out in the first innings. In search of a win, India opted for a surface that would assist spinners in Pune. However, it was Mitchell Santner who outfoxed the host batters. The second Test loss exposed the struggles of the most experienced batters against spin. In Mumbai, on another rank turner, India went into self-destruct mode.

On Sunday, too, the collapse began with Sharma's miscued pull against Matt Henry. They slumped to 29/5 and eventually fell short by 25 runs while chasing 147.

India are in transition where the seniors, including Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin, are in the November of their careers. India's last home series defeat came 12 years ago. The dominance that followed and the fall in the last three weeks would make this one of the lowest phases in the history of Indian cricket. P11

New Zealand's Ajaz Patel (3L) and Devon Conway (L) shake hands with India's Virat Kohli (2R) and captain Rohit Sharma (2L). Ravindra Jadeja is also seen in the picture (extreme right) | AFP

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
ONE-TIME SETTLEMENT SCHEME
OTS
LAST DATE
30th November 2024
Pay Your Property Tax Arrears With
➤ Full Interest Waiver
➤ Full Penalty Waiver#
#Penalty @ Rs.100/- Only per year
Don't Wait for Last Date
Pay @ https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in
From 1ST December 2024 Property Tax Arrears Will Double as OTS Will End
One City - One Number
Universal BBMP Grievance Helpline 1533

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU | MONDAY 04.11.2024 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 04.11.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Karthika • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Thrutheeya 8.36 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Anuradha 6.48 am • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.14 am
Sunset 05.52 pm
Moonrise 08.26 am
Moonset 07.55 pm

The Rs 179-crore K-100 waterway project, which runs from Shantala Silk Junction in Majestic to Koramangala and BTM Layout. The channel drains into Bellandur Lake | EXPRESS

Stink no more! K-100 waterway network to be ready by January

Can hold water even if there is heavy rainfall up to 100 mm per hour

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

THE Rs 179-crore K-100 waterway project, which runs from Shantala Silk Junction in Majestic to Koramangala in BTM and drains into Bellandur Lake, covering 12 km, is likely to be ready by January.

The project is the initiative of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with architect and urban expert Naresh Narasimhan of Mod Foundation helping in developing the concept. It was also supported by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and other parastatals to ensure the 12-km drain remains free from sewage. It will become an urban green asset for the public, if all goes well.

"This major drain (K100) across the city can hold water even if there is heavy rainfall up to 100 mm per hour. Over the years, drains have become choked with 30% occupied by hardened silt, 30% by sewage and 30% solid waste. Hardly 10% of drains have capacity for rainwater. To fix the problem, this project was taken up. Currently, this is the only Rajakaluve that does not cause flooding in heavy rain. Once the BWSSB's intermediate stage pumping station in Shantinagar becomes operational, there will be almost zero sewage in the 12-km drain network. There is a pathway along the drain network and people can also take a walk from Double Road to Bellandur, during the non-rainy season," said Narasimhan.

He also added that technology like alert systems, water-level sensors and automatic gate closure to pathways have been installed.

According to BBMP officials, initially, 130 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage was being let in and now it has been reduced to only 10 MLD and soon this will be stopped. Due to the reduction in sewage and the development of Rajakaluve, flooding incidents in areas of Shanthi Nagar, Richmond Town and parts of Koramangala and other places were avoided this rainy season.

"We are hopeful that the ISPS by BWSSB will be ready in two months and the project is likely to be inaugurated by January. Once we complete, work on another drain network will also be taken up," said BS Prahalad, Principal Engineer, BBMP, and also incharge of the Stormwater Drain Network. According to Prahalad, the contractor engaged in the project has designed, built and will operate and maintain the project for the next five years.

Meanwhile, BWSSB chairman Ram Prasat Manohar thanked Chief Secretary (CS) Shalini Rajneesh for ensuring the handing over of the required land from KSRTC to BWSSB for setting up the ISPS. "The board thanks the CS for speeding up the process of transfer of land from KSRTC to BWSSB in the past when she was Development Commissioner."

> **Once the BWSSB's intermediate stage pumping station in Shantinagar becomes operational, there will be almost zero sewage in the 12-km drain network** —Naresh Narasimhan, architect

Car pooling norms still on drawing board

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IT'S been a year since the state transport department geared up to impose a ban on carpooling in the city. After facing criticism, it said it is not banning carpooling, but will come up with detailed guidelines on the practice. However, the guidelines are yet to be issued.

Transport department sources said they are awaiting guidelines from the Union government on aggregators' guidelines.

Last year, the department geared up to impose a ban on carpooling. This move came after the department was pressured by the auto, cab operator unions, who opposed carpooling, citing that it is eating away their rightful revenue and argued that they were operating by paying taxes, insurance and other expenses, while carpooling was done without any of these.

While there were protests against carpooling, there were some who stood in favour of this practice, including Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya. They countered the cab unions, stating that carpooling is an excellent solution to beat the increasing traffic in Bengaluru and such ideas should be encouraged by making necessary amendments to the existing law.

"We were planning to come up with carpooling guidelines. However, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is coming up with aggregator guidelines. Once it is out, we will frame one for our state," said an official from the state transport department.

Those who are using car pooling using different apps said they are able to save money by splitting the fuel expenses. However, the transport department officials have continued with the operations of booking those who still practice carpooling using various apps and websites.

Asha Sweets owner held, experts flag manual scavenging worries

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

BENGALURU Rural police arrested Mayur, owner of Asha Sweets, for the death of two men allegedly engaged in manual scavenging at the company's factory in Sompura Industrial Area in Bengaluru Rural district. This brings the number of arrests to three, including the sub-contractor and site in-charge.

Investigations revealed that the company, which has about 18 outlets in the city, allegedly did not adhere to clearances and regulations from various departments, including the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

The incident is a reminder of the dangers of manual scavenging, which continues to claim lives and inflict trauma. The Karnataka government has also failed to conduct a mandatory survey that was to start in March 2024 and conclude by August 2024.

The case also highlights the authorities' failure to enforce the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. It is registered under Sections 7 and 9 of the Act, apart from BNS Section

105 – culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Section 7 prohibits employing individuals as manual scavengers, while Section 9 mandates local authorities to provide alternative livelihoods and enforce prohibition.

A senior official with Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis told TNIE that officials were directed to identify manual scavengers in each district, and the delay in starting the survey is due to the ongoing rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

Advocate Basavaraj said failure to comply with these provisions exposes workers to exploitation and health risks. While there are thousands of registered manual scavengers, there are many others doing the same work without officially being employed, or involved in cleaning sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba said such incidents are a clear violation of the Supreme Court's directions that manual cleaning of STPs is strictly prohibited, with mechanised processes to ensure worker safety. "We have registered a case of culpable homicide and invoked sections of the Manual Scavenging Act. Factories and production facilities must prioritise safe practices. Mechanisation must be implemented to ensure the safety and dignity of workers, and prevent such tragedies," he said.

Advocate Saba said the apex court had ruled that no human should be employed to manually clean sewers or septic tanks. Mechanised equipment must be used, such as robotic cleaning devices and vacuum trucks to handle waste without human intervention.

The latest survey by the State Commission for Safai Karamcharis shows Karnataka has 7,483 manual scavengers, with 1,625 registered under BBMP.

RR NAGAR ZONE

Special facility to operate CD recovered dogs

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has resumed its Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme in RR Nagar Zone, with now a facility dedicated to treating and operating community dogs, which recovered from Canine Distemper (CD) diseases.

Special Commissioner of BBMP Health, Animal Husbandry and Welfare Department, Suralkar Vikas Kishor said, "Previously, dogs which had CD conditions or which had recovered from one did not undergo surgeries. But now ABC centres, with a separate team will conduct surgeries among CD recovered community dogs. Since the virus impacts gut health among dogs, causing gastrointestinal conditions, respiratory infections and nervous system failures, it may also infect other community dogs that are brought at the centre." Welcoming the Palike's move, Sunatha Prasanna, an animal rights activists and rescuer, said that CD is often fatal and survivors require lifelong care. "Complete recovery takes about six months and it's crucial to manage female dogs as they cold pass the virus to their puppies," she said. She also urged the BBMP to kickstart the 'Core Vaccines (DHPPL) along with ARV' project for community dogs to curb lethal illnesses like Canine Distemper and Parvo attacks.

According to BBMP, the centre's recovery facility can operate on three dogs daily and house 15 such dogs until their wounds are healed.

Dr Venkatesh KM, a senior BBMP veterinarian reported that five dogs with suspected CD cases were housed at the facility in the past one week. "Four of the these dogs have undergone surgeries, with the fifth awaiting treatment once it has recovered," he added

BREWED RISKS: EXCESSIVE COFFEE TRIGGERS ANXIETY DISORDERS, HIGH BP

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

COFFEE, often seen as a productivity booster, is silently fuelling a rise in anxiety disorders, according to doctors.

Many patients reporting anxiety symptoms have excessive caffeine consumption in common because in workplaces, where 'free coffee' is readily available, employees often overconsume without realising it, doctors said, linking this habit to various disorders, including heightened anxiety, insomnia, increased stress and even blood pressure.

Medical experts mentioned that the city's strong coffee culture, paired with high-pressure work environments, is driving anxiety levels higher, with many unaware of the connection between their daily cups and rising stress.

One of the studies in General Hospital Psychiatry, a monthly health journal, found that excessive caffeine consumption can worsen anxiety and even trigger panic attacks in individuals prone to anxiety disorders while another research in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition linked high caffeine intake to increased blood pressure, which elevates the risk of cardiovascular disorders.

Doctors highlighted that while consuming up to three-four cups or 400 mg of caffeine is generally safe, individual tolerance varies, and factors such as age, underlying health conditions, and caffeine sensitivity play a role. Pregnant women, specifically, should be cautious as excessive caffeine can increase the risks of miscarriage and low birth weight. Moreover, coffee intake also increases sugar consumption directly.

Edwina Raj, Head of Services, Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, highlighted that excessive consumption can lead to various side effects, including increased blood pressure and it can also interfere with the absorption of essential micronutrients, causing iron and zinc deficiencies.

Edwina said some studies even suggest that excessive coffee consumption may increase the risk of osteoporosis (weak bones) and type 2 diabetes. Additionally, caffeine addiction can lead to withdrawal symptoms like headaches, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating. High caffeine intake may also trigger gastric issues, and added sugar in coffee can contribute to an increased intake of simple sugars, frequent urination, irregular heartbeat, and heightened irritability and anxiety.

Dr Anantha Padmanabha, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital, pointed out that coffee consumption is common, with people often drinking multiple cups daily to stay alert and manage demanding workloads. "Excessive caffeine intake, however, disturbs sleep and triggers digestive problems like acid reflux," he added

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04TH November : The Sun's current alignment with Jupiter is big-hearted, warm-hearted and open-hearted. In fact, everything about it has heart! However, it is also impractical, inconsiderate and prone to exaggerate. That's why today may be a perfect time to make grand promises, but it's not one to accept them!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You should have a busy start to the week, so no slacking, please! This is one of those moments when the very best you can possibly do is stick to routine tasks and put sentiment and regrets to one side. There is no substitute, by the way, for a healthy dose of self-discipline.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If you've been concentrating on pursuing your worldly ambitions in recent weeks, then don't let up now. Even if success is assured, there's still some thinking to be done and people to be convinced that you're right. It's mainly a matter of finding the best words.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You should spare no effort when it comes to improving your existence. It's quite rare that such a beneficial line-up of planets affects your emotional state as at the present time, and you'd be foolish not to take advantage of this to improve the general condition of your partnerships.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The immediate future looks positive and constructive, even if you do have a few doubts. Over the long-term, there's a definite need for more space and comfort in your living conditions, although you may not make a move until the Moon begins to play a role in your home and family affairs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may concentrate on your material resources. It seems better to save than spend but if money must flow out, aim it towards necessities rather than luxuries. Above all, steer clear of those who are too fond of rumour and gossip - or who are out to waste your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
With the Moon so powerfully aligned with your sign, this is a fine day to make a greater than usual effort to get your own way and still reach sensible compromises. You'll be able to clear up niggling irritations with little difficulty, although you'd better have the facts at your fingertips.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Sometimes you can hide your head in the sand - but not now. There's no getting away from your essential needs and desires today. The general planetary picture is extraordinarily helpful and there's little risk in forcing issues into the open as long as you keep a dialogue going with other concerned individuals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
In spite of a certain shyness, you love it when other people are forced to listen to your opinions, and that's exactly what you'll be insisting on this week. The fact is that your ideas are probably the best. But will other people agree? Well, probably not!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
There should be a welcome absence of tension from most of today's personal proceedings, although excitement could boil over into animated arguments and disputes. These are lively times and you're a force to be reckoned with, as reckless individuals could soon discover.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The sky's the limit, and there's no reason why you shouldn't achieve your ambitions in whatever your main areas of activity happen to be. Friends will be of more help than you've come to expect, although any favours you accept now might have to be paid back sooner than you hope.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The planetary connections between your work and money are so powerful as to suggest an imminent windfall, almost certainly as a reward for all your past efforts. At least, that's one interpretation. Plus, for some reason we have yet to understand, discretion is required in personal matters.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
This is no time to be shy and withdrawn. The Sun, Mars, Venus and Saturn are just a few of the planets compelling you to face up to your needs, wants and desires and it's about time you made these your guiding priority rather than always trying to please other people.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

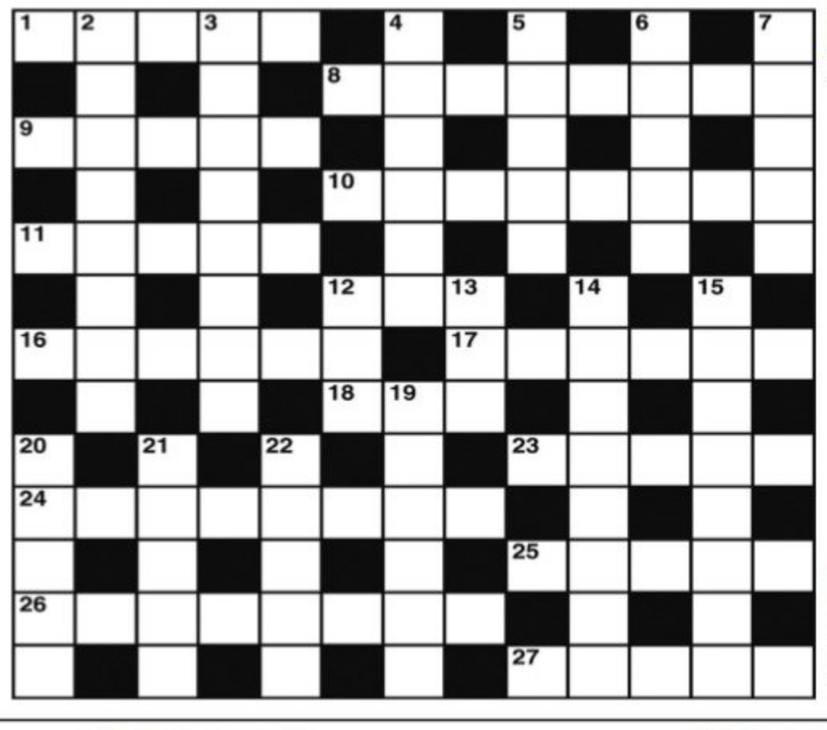
9			7			8	3	
			9	1	8		2	5
				4				
				9		7	1	
	2	5		8				
				6				
7	6		3	2	1			
	9	8			4			2

1	9	4	3	7	2	8	5	6
7	8	2	6	5	9	3	4	1
3	5	6	1	8	4	7	9	2
4	7	1	9	3	5	6	2	8
6	2	5	7	4	8	9	1	3
8	3	9	2	6	1	5	7	4
5	4	7	8	1	3	2	6	9
2	1	3	5	9	6	4	8	7
9	6	8	4	2	7	1	3	5

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Bones placed in a circle (5)
8 Head-holding in court (8)
9 Footwear that goes with the hose? (5)
10 Notice work getting into shape for a takeover (8)
11 Let in a trailer with German attachment (5)
12 Having nothing, we must be in the red (3)
16 Very many not informed (6)
17 Change in gale to just breezy conditions (6)
18 A work unit (3)
23 He'd follow the account with a pained expression (5)
24 Marriage makes a nice change after all (8)
25 Children appearing about noon in classes (5)
26 Popular pro (2,6)
27 Catch in a drum? (5)

DOWN
2 Sailor and German worker get rich (8)
3 Shut up (8)
4 Dog a matchless sort of boxer (6)
5 Shoot a bird (5)
6 I am in rooms with him (5)
7 Fading and dingy, thrown out (5)
12 Poem - inspired by love of French? (3)
13 It may be consumed from a cup (3)
14 Idleness indeed (8)
15 Perfume the French sell with hesitation (8)
19 About to take successful action to recover (6)
20 He ran a novel criminal class (5)
21 Empty new flat on the top floor? (5)
22 Returning by way of Northeast Passage is simple (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Methodical, 6 Limb, 10 Visit, 11 Piecemeal, 12 Opponent, 13 Niece, 15 Allergy, 17 Regaled, 19 Entente, 21 Caribou, 22 Weave, 24 Pleasure, 27 Garrulous, 28 Alive, 29 Noah, 30 Tenderness.

Down: 1 Move, 2 Test pilot, 3 Outdo, 4 Impiety, 5 Abettor, 7 Irene, 8 Billet doux, 9 Teenager, 14 Water wagon, 16 Runner-up, 18 Libertine, 20 Explode, 21 Creased, 23 Aorta, 25 Stair, 26 Fees.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TAGOL

OSYBS

CRIWEK

TAHYCT

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AHEAD AFOOT CHARGE GUTTER
Answer: She became ill while boating, so they headed back so she could — GET TO THE "DOC"

Over 150 firecracker-related injuries were reported from different hospitals across Bengaluru City this Deepavali, between October 28 and November 3

Student attacked by intruders at Ramanagara farmhouse dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE case of intruders filming girls swimming and attacking students at a farmhouse in Ramanagara has ended in the death of one of the students, who was under treatment at a private hospital in Kengeri.

The deceased, Puneeth (21), was a BCom student at a private college in Basaveshwaranagar. After the incident, the Ramanagara Rural police had arrested the three accused after booking an attempt-to-murder case against them. The case has now been turned into one of murder. The incident occurred on October 26 and Puneeth died on October 29, the police said.

The incident happened at the farmouse in APS Layout in Chikkanahalli on October 26. Puneeth along with six other classmates had gone to the farmhouse to spend the weekend as their college had declared holidays for Deepavali. They went there as one of them knew the owner of the farmhouse. While two girls were swimming, the others were playing antakshari when somebody knocked on the door around 10.30 pm. One of the students opened the door and the three accused barged in. They claimed that they were locals and started abusing the students, asking them who gave them the permission. The accused then started filming the girls. When the other students tried to stop them, the accused attacked them with wooden logs. After the police arrived, the two seriously injured students were shifted in a car to the nearby government hospital. As Puneeth's condition was critical, he was admitted to a private hospital in Kengeri.

All the three accused – Chandru, Nagesh and Murali, who are unemployed, were arrested immediately. The Ramanagara Rural police have registered a case of murder along with other sections of BNS.

Body found in Kodagu: Accused flees from cops

ENS @ Madikeri

A MURDER accused, who was arrested in Uttar Pradesh in filmy style, has escaped from the clutches of Kodagu police. Ankur Rana, who hailed from Haryana, was arrested in Uttar Pradesh by the Kodagu police.

The police had garnered much appreciation after they cracked an inter-sate murder quickly. A businessman, Ramesh Kumar (45), had been murdered in Hyderabad and his burnt body was found inside an estate at Suntikoppa in Kodagu. Following several clues, the Kodagu police nabbed the victim's second wife Niharika and her two acquaintances Ankur Rana and Nikhil Maireddy.

While Niharika and Nikhil were arrested from Bengaluru, Ankur was nabbed in filmy style in Uttar Pradesh. When the Kodagu police took him for the spot mahazar in Hyderabad, he managed to escape.

As confirmed by SP K Ramarajan, the Kodagu police, along with the three accused, arrived in Hyderabad on October 31 and carried out the mahazar at the crime spot on Uppal-Bhuvanagiri National Highway. The police then stayed at a private hotel in Hyderabad for the night. However, Ankur broke out of the hotel after unlocking his handcuffs. He is said to have escaped from the window of the hotel room on the third floor. Sources confirmed that he escaped with a police communication system.

Search operations are going on to nab the accused, and SP K Ramarajan expressed hope that Ankur will be nabbed soon.

OUCH, THAT HURTS!

The recent spell of heavy rain in Bengaluru has come as a bane for motorists who have to navigate large potholes. Here, vehicles drive past a pothole on Kensington Road in the city's Ulsoor locality | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Barber snatches blanket, pays with life

BENGALURU: A 54-year-old barber was murdered inside a temple in Avalahalli, near KR Puram, over a blanket. The incident occurred at the Muneshwara Temple on Friday night. The victim has been identified as Kumar, who worked as a barber at the temple, tasked with tonsuring the heads of devotees. The accused is identified as Manjunath alias Krishna Murthy (38). On the night of the incident, both Kumar and Manjunath were sleeping in the temple, when they argued over Kumar using a blanket, which belonged to Manjunath. "Kumar reportedly used Manjunath's blanket, which led to an argument. Kumar didn't return the blanket, instead covering himself with it. When he fell asleep, Manjunath is suspected to have smashed his head with a stone, killing him," an officer said. Manjunath has been arrested and remanded in judicial custody. ENS

'Disappointed spectator' turned ace filmmaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Kannada film industry is mourning the untimely passing of director Guruprasad. Known for his unique storytelling and poignant themes, Guruprasad, born Guruprasad Ramachandra Sharma, made an impact on the Kannada industry with his debut release of 'Mata' in 2006, followed by 'Eddelu Manjunatha' in 2009. Both, starring Jaggesh, earned him state awards for best screenplay. His ability to weave narratives reflecting societal issues won him a loyal fan base and critical recognition.

Throughout his 18-year career, Guruprasad directed only five films, including Director's Special, Eradane Sala, both starring Dhananjay, and most recently, Ranganayaka, starring Jaggesh, which released earlier this year. Unfortunately, his last three projects faced challenges at the box office, with Ranganayaka particularly receiving harsh criticism. Nevertheless, his contributions to cinema, both as a director and actor, left an indelible mark on the industry. The public had partially funded his upcoming project, Eddelu Manjunatha 2. Although it remains unclear how much of the film he completed, Guruprasad had reportedly become entangled in a web of financial issues, addiction, and deceit. Born to a temple priest in Kanakapura, he overcame many hardships, including working as a lottery ticket and coffee powder seller before finding his place in entertainment through writing and singing for TN Seetharam's 'Manvantara' serial. Many respected Guruprasad for his ability to make impactful films on modest budgets, proving that strong content and meaningful dialogues could attract audiences. Known for his clever wordplay, he brought special recognition to pun-filled dialogues. He even referred to himself as the son of Saraswati, calling himself 'Sharada Putra'.

Guruprasad entered the world of cinema with a distinct style, yet his life took a turbulent turn. He often referred to himself as "not a director, but a disappointed spectator" reflecting his complex relationship with the film industry. In addition to directing, he appeared in his own films, and in movies like Mylari, Kal Manja, Bodyguard, and Badava Rascal, competed on Bigg Boss Kannada Season 2, and served as a judge on TV shows.

In his personal life, he faced challenges, including a turbulent marital history marked by divorce and a recent remarriage.

Director Guruprasad gave me that first opportunity on the silver screen with Director's Special, something I am forever thankful for and hold dear.

— Actor Dhananjaya

In his 30s when he directed Mata, he showed a commendable maturity. He was known for his hearty laughter, but was sensitive. He was an avid reader and often advised people. With his knowledge, he should not have succumbed to financial burdens and despair.

— Actor Shruti

Police suspect director was depressed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He is said to have repeatedly changed houses, unable to take pressure from money lenders. He was earlier staying in Basaveshwaranagar and from there he moved to another house in Kanakanapalya in Jayanagar. Before moving to the flat in Dasanapura, he was staying at a hotel. He is also suspected to have been addicted to alcohol. We suspect that he was depressed," a police officer said.

Guruprasad is said to have sent a WhatsApp message to his friends on a 'Friends Forum' on October 26, stating that he was taking rest due to health issues and would start the film-related work after Deepavali.

The body was handed over to his family members after the postmortem at Victoria Hospital mortuary. The final rites were conducted at the Wilson Garden cemetery. The Madanayakanahalli police have taken up an unnatural death case and are further investigating.

If you have suicidal thoughts or need emotional support, call Sneha Foundation - **04424640050,** Tele Manas - **14416** (available 24x7) or iCall, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline - **02225521111,** which is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.)

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Former chief minister and Haveri Lok Sabha member Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday clarified that he had only asked the Waqf Board to reclaim those properties encroached by Congress leaders, as per the Anwar Manipaddy report, and not farmers' lands

RAIN AND RUIN

Farmers across Karnataka are facing losses due to incessant rain and a change in weather pattern

TEAM TNIE

AGRICULTURE and horticulture crops on around 1.05 lakh hectares were damaged due to heavy rain since October 1. While a survey was done to ascertain the extent of damage, preliminary reports by officials indicate that agriculture crops on 74,994 hectares and horticulture crops on 30,941 hectares were damaged due to rain. The New Indian Express takes a look at the impact of heavy rain across the state.

Dakshina Kannada: Arecanut, cocoa growers stare at loss

There are over 1.44 lakh registered arecanut growers who have suffered as tender areca fruits had fallen due to fruit rot disease, following heavy rain in June and July. Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative president Kishore Kumar Kodgi said this summer, extreme heat resulted in withering of the inflorescence. But heavy rain has worsened the condition, and farmers could not spray pesticide. Cocoa production was also affected across the district, with tender cocoa buds either rotting or blackening and falling off.

Gadag: Onion, chilli bring tears to farmers

Many farmers who grew onion and chilli are in distress, with heavy rain leaving their crops damaged. Of 12,500 hectares, sowing was completed only on 2,760 hectares. Similarly, chilli was also sown in a few places. Besides this, farmers in Nargund, Ron, Gajendragad, Laxmeshwar, Shirahatti and Mundargi also saw a loss in maize, cotton and other crops. Farmers Prakash Beleri and Manjunath Konnur said, "Abbigeri onions are famous across the state, and many farmers directly sell the onion crop to Tamil Nadu and surrounding states with the help of Yeshwantpur APMC market. But this year, Gadag's onion farmers suffered losses and got Pune and other onions at a high price."

Hassan: Banana and ginger crops lost

Recently, standing crops including maize, ragi and horticultural varieties, including ginger, banana and vegetables, were destroyed due to rain. According to Ramesh Kumar, joint director of agriculture, crops sown on 2.50 lakh hectares, maize on 362 hectares and ragi on 132 hectares were damaged in the district so far. The highest loss was agricultural crops on 397 hectares in Holenarasipur taluk, followed by Arkalgud (175 hectares), Hassan (79 hectares), Channarayapatna (71 hectares) and Alur (56 hectares).

Kodagu: Change in weather pattern

The changing weather pattern severely affected coffee cultivation in Kodagu, and the sector has recorded considerable loss this year due to untimely rain, said Coffee Board Deputy Director V Chandrashekar. September's untimely rain resulted in dropping of coffee beans, which will affect productivity next year. "A crop loss survey was conducted jointly with the revenue, agriculture and horticulture departments. Coffee plantations in heavy rainfall zones have reported crop loss and a detailed report has been submitted to the district administration," he said. Alongside paddy, ginger farmlands in the district also suffered losses due to rain in September.

BIG PICTURE

Udupi: Paddy crop in ruins under incessant rain

The paddy crop which was all set to be harvested, was destroyed by rain in October. As per official data, 2,133 farmers suffered losses due to heavy rain, and the loss has been estimated at Rs 6.11 crore. The total farm area that was damaged due to heavy rain and floods in the district is 665.10 hectares -- 250.53 hectares in Brahmavara taluk, 172.22 hectares in Kundapur, 104.83 hectares in Byndoor, 76.96 hectares in Karkala, 29.82 hectares in Kaup, 18.86 hectares in Hebri and 11.88 hectares in Udupi taluk. Poornima GC, joint director, agriculture department, Udupi district, said that as per National Disaster Response Fund norms, the compensation amount has been fixed at Rs 8,500 per hectare.

Vijayapura: Worries mount for grape growers

Grape growers in Vijayapura are in distress. Abhay Kumar Nandrekar, sate president of Karnataka State Grape Growers' Association, said that cloudy weather and even a prolonged spell of dry weather makes a negative impact, as moisture evaporates from the plants. This affects growth and creates a conducive situation for insects to start eating the stems. Of over 47,000 hectares of grape cultivation in the State, North Karnataka accounts for 40,000 hectares, with 29,000 hectares in Vijayapura district alone. Sources say that around 15,000 hectares of grape farming area of Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi districts were affected due to cloudy and moist conditions. So far, grapes have not been included in the Fasal Bima Crop Insurance Scheme, as the government treats it as a commercial crop.

Belagavi: Sugarcane farmers bitter

In Belagavi district, heavy rain has extensively damaged kharif crops spread across thousands of acres. Farmer leader Appasaheb Desai said that during July and August, torrential rain caused rivers, streams and lakes to overflow, flooding fields across the district. Major crops such as paddy, maize, soybean, green pea, cotton and pulses suffered severe damage, while sugarcane crops were waterlogged for nearly a month. Despite these conditions, farmers tried to save their sugarcane crops by draining the excess water, but with limited success. An assessment put the total loss in Belagavi at 24,777 hectares. Sugarcane was the worst affected, with losses spread over 22,000 hectares alone.

Kolar: Skewed rain pattern hits farmers

While incessant rain and floods caused crop loss across the state, farmers in Kolar, Chikkaballapur, parts of Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara are expecting crop loss due to insufficient rain. Farmers in Kolar district cultivate more tomato compared to ragi, groundnut and other crops, and farmers who invested in ragi and groundnut are expecting low yield. Kolar Deputy Commissioner Akram Pasha said the district got deficit rain in June and July, and moderate rain in August, September and October. Joint Director of Agriculture MR Suma said that rain was not expected during the southwest monsoon, and has impacted ragi and groundnut, which are three-month crops. Though farmers sowed crops in time, there was no yield due to lack of rain. Now, the district has received good rain but it is unlikely to help farmers.

Raichur: Rain pushes paddy farmers into debt

Most crops, including paddy, cotton, chilli, tur and onion, grow in abundance in Raichur district. But rain at the beginning of the winter season (rabi) has pushed farmers into losses. Paddy grown on thousands of acres in Singapura, Mukunda, Huda, Mavinamadgu, Sidrampur, Channalli, Salagunda, and other villages have crumpled due to the rain. Basanagouda, a farmer from Mukkunda village, said, "Due to heavy rain, the paddy crop is destroyed. We have spent Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre on paddy cultivation and fertilisers."

Uttara Kannada: Rain damages pineapple crop

Unseasonal rainfall in Uttara Kannada has caused severe damage to the pineapple crop in and around Banavasi, about 20km away from Sirsi. "This year, we could not spray medicine before the flowering stage, as is done every year in July and August. We now feel it's a good thing we did not spray anything. But due to heavy rain, it was rotting," Raju, a farmer, said. A pineapple usually weighs 2kg each, but now, it does not weigh more than 1kg. "Flowering was delayed due to heavy rainfall," said Mahesh Gouda, pineapple cultivator. Pineapple is cultivated on at least 250 hectares in Banavasi.

Chitradurga: Onion growers in distress

Onion is a major crop which suffered severe damage due to unprecedented rains. When onion was about to be harvested, a large quantity of the crop got damaged due to decay of bulbs post harvest. The crop, which was to be sent outside Karnataka, is being sold at a low price in Yeshwanthpur market in Bengaluru. Maize crop also suffered damage on approximately 900 acres, and standing maize cobs also led to germination of the crop. In Jagalur of Davanagere district, the flowering arecanut suffered loss, as did the mango crop of Santhebennur region in Davanagere district.

Shivamogga: Paddy crop destroyed

A total of 353 hectares of paddy were affected by continuous downpour, according to the agriculture department. Sources said a crop loss survey is under way, though the currently available data is preliminary. Paddy crop was lost in most parts of Shikaripura, Shivamogga and Soraba. The department is yet to send taluk-wise data on the losses to the government. Both the agriculture and revenue departments will conduct the survey, sources added. Savita G, Deputy Director of the Department of Horticulture, said that approximately 10.32 hectares of horticultural crops have been lost in Shivamogga district, affecting 20 farmers, due to heavy rain.

Dharwad: Farmers in distress

Rain has ruined farmers' lives in the district. Crops on nearly 65,397 hectares were damaged in a span of 25 days, and assessment of last week's rain is still being done. Maize, cotton, groundnut, paddy, red chilli, onions, flowers and other crops, and more than 3,500 hectares with agricultural crops like paddy, chilli and cotton were damaged, after heavy rain in the past two months.

(From Divya Cutinho/ Dakshina Kannada, Raghottam Koppar/ Gadag, By BR Udaya Kumar/ Hassan, Prajna GR/ Madikeri, Prakash Samaga/ Udupi, Firoz Rozindar/ Vijayapura, Tushar A Majukar/ Belagavi, Velayudham/ Kolar, Basavaraj Bhogavati/ Raichur, Subhash Chandra NS/ Uttara Kannada, G Subhash Chandra/ Chitradurga, Arpitha I/ Shivamogga, Mallikarjun Hiremath/ Dharwad)

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer calls on Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt pontiff Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, during his visit to Sri Kalabhairweshwara Swamy Temple in Adi Chunchanagiri on Sunday | EXPRESS

Waqf issue has reached Channapatna, says Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Waqf menace has extended its tentacles to even Channapatna, said Leader of Opposition **R Ashoka** alleged on Sunday.

The opposition BJP has raised the issue of Waqf Board allegedly claiming the properties of farmers.

"Farmers should immediately go to their taluk offices and check their land records," he said at Chakkere village, where he was campaigning for NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy for the November 13 bypoll at Channapatna. He alleged that the Waqf Board has turned its "evil eye" even on a Hindu graveyard near Yaliyur in Channapatna taluk.

Though farmers have been living on the land for hundreds of years, the Waqf Board is creating fake documents and claiming that land was in its possession even before that, he alleged. He ridiculed that the Board seems to have more land than the Army.

He lashed out at Congress candidate CP Yogeshwara for claiming the title Bhagiratha for filling up water tanks in Channapatna. He said, "Then CM DV Sadananda Gowda released money to fill 17 tanks, Basavaraj Bommai ordered the release of money and irrigation department engineer Venkate Gowda initiated the project. Gowda pressured us many times to see that this project is implemented."

Senior BJP leader Dr CN Ashwathanarayana asked why Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who visited Channapatna 18 times promising to develop Ramanagara district, did not become in-charge here but chose to be minister in charge of Bengaluru. "He knows he will get nothing if Ramanagara district is developed and can loot by playing the game of development in Bengaluru," he alleged.

BJP to protest today

BJP leaders and members will stage protests at taluk offices in Bengaluru on Monday against Minority Welfare and Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan over the Waqf Board allegedly claiming the ownership of farmers' lands. The party members will picket taluk offices in KR Puram, Yelahanka, Kengeri and Anekal.

Minister asks CM to order probe

Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna on Sunday alleged that BJP might have been involved in the transfer of farmers' lands to the Waqf Board. "In farmers' land records, it is mentioned as Waqf property. That is by oversight. I will meet the CM, urge him to order a probe and take action against those responsible. Why can't it be assumed that BJP might have done it for political mileage as it is already trying to cash in on the issue," he alleged.

Govt acted on Waqf land issue, BJP's protest political, says Siddaramaiah

Even after our government ordered the immediate withdrawal of notices issued to farmers over the Waqf property issue, BJP leaders persist with their protests.

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah lashed out at the BJP on sunday, accusing it of being politically motivated in staging protests at taluk offices on Monday over the Waqf property issue, even as his government has given orders for the withdrawal of notices issued to farmers.

"I urge the people of Karnataka to see through the @BJP4Karnataka's true intentions. Even after our government ordered the immediate withdrawal of notices issued to farmers over the Waqf property issue, BJP leaders persist with their protests. Their motives are purely political, with no genuine interest in protecting the welfare of our farmers", he alleged in a post on X.

"On the Waqf property matter, our government has already directed that all notices issued to farmers be immediately revoked. Any unauthorized amendments in land records without due notice must also be nullified. I have made it clear to officials: no decision should be taken that inconvenience farmers. Yet, BJP leaders choose to protest. The question remains- why?" he stated.

"The BJP's true nature is to stoke communal strife for political gain. This protest has no intention of safeguarding farmers' interests; instead, it threatens the harmony of Karnataka. I call on the people of Karnataka to reject this divisive, destructive agenda and stand with us in building a Karnataka that unites, progresses, and prospers for all," he added.

He, however, said that issuing notices for property clarification is a standard administrative procedure. "Let's not forget that governments under former BJP Chief Ministers- B.S.@Yediyurappa, @DVSadanandGowda, Jagadish Shettar - and even JDS leader @hd_kumaraswamy, issued similar notices regarding Waqf properties. My colleagues, Shri @MBPatil, Shri @PriyankKharge and others, have already clarified these facts to the people," he said.

"Ironically, a recent video shows former CM @BSBommai addressing the Muslim community, stating, 'Waqf property belongs to Allah, and those who encroached on it will answer to Him if they don't return every inch.' This video exposes the BJP's hypocrisy. They stir up communal sentiments when it benefits them, but now they play innocent in their protest drama," he added.

The BJP, which was marred by internal bickering, has been trying to pull people's attention away from its failures, he alleged.

Minister's charges on road closure baseless: Official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Karwar

SENIOR IAS officer Ritesh Kumar Singh has said that he had no role in the closure or re-opening of the Kumta-Sirsi highway in Uttara Kannada, and that the allegations made against him by Ports Minister Mankal Vaidya are baseless.

Singh, who is Principal Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, and district in-charge secretary of Uttara Kannada, was responding to the minister's allegation that he was a "settlement officer".

Singh said, "The decision to close the road was made by the district administration, based on recommendations by NHAI, and the matter has not been escalated as district in-charge secretary."

Explaining the status of the Kumta-Sirsi road, about which the minister had mocked him, Singh said, "The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken up work on the Belekeri/Kumta to Sirsi highway (NH-766E), specifically for the construction of bridges and completion of the road in the ghat sections. In view of this, NHAI submitted a request to the deputy commissioner on June 18, 2024, seeking permission to close the highway temporarily to expedite pending work. The deputy commissioner, in an order dated June 25, 2024, granted permission to close the highway from October 15, 2024, to February 25, 2025. The order also suggested alternative routes for public convenience. Subsequently, on October 18, NHAI requested a revised closure period from November 15, 2024, to March 25, 2025, due to weather conditions affecting the project's progress. However, the district administration has asked NHAI to proceed with work as per the original permission granted on June 25, 2024."

Dishank shows 'Sultanpur' in Udupi, locals irked

'Sultanpur' mentioned in Shivalli village of Udupi taluk on the Karnataka government's Dishank application (Screenshot from Dishaank app)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

AMID controversies surrounding the ongoing Waqf land row, where properties are seen to be shown as Waqf owned in several cases, residents of Shivalli in Udupi district on Saturday found an unfamiliar name 'Sultanpur' in Dishank app, meant for survey number identification.

What is surprising is that there was never such a locality before and many netizens raised questions over it on social media. The reason is not yet known for 'Sultanpur' to crop up on the app, which has been developed for the Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) department and is meant to help people identify information of properties. The mobile app was developed under the Karnataka Geographical Information System programme of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center (KSRSAC).

Raviraja V Acharya, a resident of Udupi, posted on a social media platform on Saturday that Shivalli village of Udupi taluk, which also includes Sri Krishna Mutt and Car Street, is mentioned as Sultanpur in the app. He advised all Udupi citizens, mutts and temples to check RTC (Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops) for Waqf entry. As this reporter checked the Dishaank app on Sunday, 'Sultanpur' was mentioned in Shivalli village.

Ganeshprasad Kodibettu, another resident, also posted on a social media platform that 'Sultanpur' continued to exist in the app. Since the issue came to light, local people have been meticulously checking their land documents and government records in Udupi taluk. Apart from 'Sultanpur', the app contains various other names that appear not related to the area, like Sotnatti and Nevularu, sparking discussions among people about their origin.

The app is intended for land survey number identification, but there is a possibility of errors creeping in while entering names of places. People have demanded a detailed clarification from the district administration. The Udupi district administration, however, stated that there is no mention of 'Sultanpur' in the Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) under the Revenue Department and people need not worry.

Udupi DC Vidya Kumari K posted on her official Facebook page that survey numbers 120 and 85 of Shivalli village have no mention of 'Sultanpur' as alleged.

King cobra: Two variants in India

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Priyanka Swamy supported the DNA analysis and SR Ganesh, a taxonomist, supported with morphological characters.

"We collected tissue samples by clipping the ventral scales from the field, zoos and museums. The team then processed these samples to obtain the DNA sequences. We photographed king cobras from different regions and studied their physical characteristics. After years of analysis, the riddle was solved," Gowri Shakar told *TNIE*.

Out of the four variants, two are found in India. Gowri Shankar has named one of the cobras endemic to India in Kannada as Ophiophagus kaalinga. The state forest department is expected to make the announcement this month.

Ophiophagus kaalinga

Gowri Shankar said the king cobra is categorised as "vulnerable" under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Assessment (IUCN, 2012) and also listed in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Habitat destruction, skin trade, food, medicine and pet trade are threatening king cobra populations, he added. "Not much details are available when it comes to king cobra venom. Apart from answering fundamental and theoretical questions, this study will immediately help assess which species of king cobras need immediate attention and what conservation measures need implementation. It also studies the venom composition of these species as this will have a direct impact on the efficacy of antivenom and snake bite mitigation," he noted.

Vijay's TVK attacks DMK over L&O in TN

Slams 'One Nation, One Poll', wants Tamilian appointed as envoy to Lanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

A week after tacitly identifying the DMK as its political foe and BJP as its ideological opponent at the Vikravandi conference, actor **Vijay**'s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Sunday launched a direct attack on the Dravidian party, alleging that law and order has deteriorated in Tamil Nadu and that the state government focusses solely on the welfare of a select few. The party also condemned "personal attacks" by the DMK-led government on opposition leaders and critics in online and offline platforms.

The TVK's executive committee meeting, chaired by party chief Vijay in Panaiyur near Chennai on Sunday, passed 26 resolutions. The party attributed the surge in crimes to the ruling party's failure to control law and order. It accused the state government of neglecting public welfare and alleged that instead of addressing issues like the sale of illicit liquor and rising drug addiction among the youth, the administration is prioritising the interests of a few individuals.

The TVK said education and health should be shifted to States' control, which would allow TN to exempt medical admissions from the NEET. The committee also condemned the DMK-led government for recent hikes in electricity tariffs, milk prices, and property taxes, arguing that no revenue-boosting measures had been implemented.

Condemning the Union Government, the TVK said neither the centre nor its representative (Governor) has any right to interfere in matters related to the Tamil language. "They initially imposed saffron on Tiruvalluvar and then stirred a controversy over the state anthem. Language rights are the state's foremost," the party asserted, adding that it would strongly oppose the centre's three-language policy. The party also opposed the "One Nation, One Election" proposal of the union government, terming it "anti-democratic" and demanded the withdrawal of the Waqf Amendment Bill, which it called "an assault on federalism".

The party urged the DMK government to expedite a caste-based survey study without shifting the blame to the centre.

Finally, TVK insisted that TN should be consulted on foreign policy for Sri Lanka and demanded that a Tamilian be appointed as India's ambassador to Sri Lanka.

2 youth from Rajasthan cheat Amazon of ₹1.2 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

TWO Rajasthani youth, hopping from one state to another defrauding Amazon e-commerce platform of around Rs 1.29 crore, were finally caught by the Mangaluru police recently.

The accused -- Raj Kumar Meena, 23, and Subhash Gurjar, 27 – had employed a unique modus operandi to make a quick buck. They used to order high-value cameras and laptops along with some low-value items using fake identities. On delivery, they used to distract delivery boys and swap the stickers on the boxes of high-value items with that of low-value. Then, they would give incorrect OTP of high-value items and eventually cancel the order.

The fraud was unearthed after Amazon's delivery partner Mahindra Logistics discovered the sticker swapping and reported it to Amazon.

Raj Kumar Meena, 23, and Subhash Gurjar, 27, arrested by the Mangaluru police for duping Amazon, with cash seized from them

Mangaluru Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said the accused were involved in 11 other cases involving the purchase of high-end cameras costing above Rs 10 lakh each, iPhones and laptops in Assam, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

In Mangaluru, the accused ordered two high-value Sony cameras and 10 other items on September 21 using fake details, under the name 'Amrith' to be delivered to an address near KSRTC bus stand in the city. When delivered, Meena collected the items and promptly provided the delivery OTP of some insignificant items, while Subhash Gurjar distracted the delivery personnel and swapped the original stickers of the Sony camera boxes with stickers from other items in the order.

Raj Kumar then provided an incorrect OTP, causing a delay in the delivery confirmation. They informed the delivery personnel that they would collect the cameras the next day and sent him back. Later, the accused cancelled the order for the cameras, which led to the suspicion.

When boxes were checked, Amazon's delivery partner Mahindra Logistics discovered the sticker had been swapped and reported it to Amazon. An investigation confirmed that the accused had fraudulently taken away the cameras. The police arrested the accused and seized Rs 11.45 lakh cash they had got by selling cameras.

The commissioner said the accused were initially identified through the CCTV footage obtained at the delivery point and the police followed them to the airport as they tried to leave the city.

ALL SMILES

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party candidate for the November 13 bypoll to Wayanad Lok Sabha seat Priyanka Gandhi pose with a boy who drew her portrait, at Mananthavady during a poll campaign on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Mahanadi: Engaging with C'garh, says Majhi

BALANGIR : As Mahanadi water-sharing continues to be a bone of contention between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday said his government is pursuing the matter seriously with the neighbouring state for an early resolution. The CM said he has already had two rounds of discussions with his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai on the issue.

₹1.5L cr steel plant to come up in AP

VIJAYAWADA: An integrated steel plant with a capacity of 24 million MT per annum is set to be established at Nakkapalle in Anakapalle district, Andhra Pradesh, with an investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore. AM/NS India, a joint venture of Arcelor-Mittal and Japan's Nippon Steel, will set up the plant. It is expected to create nearly 70,000 jobs. A formal announcement is likely to be made next week

Revanth seeks progress report

HYDERABAD: As the Congress government is set to complete one year in office on December 7, Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy has reportedly asked his Cabinet colleagues and the principal secretaries of all departments to submit progress reports. According to sources, the Chief Minister's Office has instructed the secretaries to submit their reports by November 20.

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL-cum-1st ADDL.DISTRICT JUDGE, KADAPA.
M.V.O.P.No.16/2022
1. Shaik Shareef, S/o Shaik Khadeer Saheb, age 49 years, Muslim
2. Shaik Fathima W/o Shaik Shareef, age 45 years, Muslim, House Wife.
3. Shaik Ayesha D/o Shaik Shareef, age 20 years, Muslim.
D.No.5/122, Viswanathapuram, Mamillapalli, Kadapa District, A.P .... Claimants
V/S
Velluru Elancharan, S/o Venkata Chelam, owner of tanker lorry bearing No.KA01AJ1169, age 60 years, residing at D.No.10/15, Kathallipalaya, 17th Main, 6th Block Koramangala, Bangaluru, Karnataka-560095. .... Respondent No.2

Notice to 2nd Respondent

Please take notice that the above case filed by the claimants for claiming compensation against you being the respondent No.2 and 2 others on account of the death of the deceased S.Khareemullah in a road accident. The above case stands posted to **18.11.2024 at 10.30 a.m.** for your appearance before the above Hon'ble Court. If you fail to appear on that date either in person or through your counsel, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.

Sri K. Venkateswar Reddy, M.A.,B.L., Advocate, Kadapa.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I M.Murugesh have lost while in transit sale deed dated 29.08.2011, registered as Doc No. RJN-1-06071-2013-14, Book No.1. CD No RJND261. Office of Subregistrar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru with respect to property owned by me being western portion of property bearing BDA No 261/B, Municipal Number 261/8/ 19/1. PID No.23-12-19/1, situated at 6th main road, prakash nagar, falling under BBMP ward no. 23. Bengaluru. That lost report No: 1179467/2024 is lodged on 05.08.24 All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with any one on the basis of the said missing document. Finder please contact M.Murugesh on phone no: 9036489068.
S. Hemachandra Advocate

In Memoriam
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
Air Vice Marshal K Chidambaram PVSM

4th November 2020
MS. RENUKA CHIDAMBARAM IAS (RETD)
DR. ROHINI CHIDAMBARAM KRISHNAN
GP. CAPT RAJESH CHIDAMBARAM (RETD)
AND
FAMILY

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
TGSPDCL (erstwhile TSSPDCL)
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (PAPER NOTIFICATION)

TGSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (1) 33KV 1 PH PTS 100 VA Burden, 0.2 Class (2) 16 MVA Power Transformers (3) 63 KVA DTRs with BIS EEL-2 (STAR-2) (4) 33 KV 800A (Conv.) DB AB Switches with solid core insulators on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above please visit **www.tgsouthernpower.org www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.auction.telangana.gov.in.**
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (P&MM)**
DIPR R.O. No. 6105-PP/CL/Advt/1/2024-25, Dt: 02/11/2024

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR
Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

A-: Bid Identification No. 03ML /2024-25

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha
1. **Name of Work:** Operation and Maintenance of existing 13 nos. schemes with intake points on Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XIV in the districts of Kalahandi & Bolangir comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 14069.84 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 13 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 10 years on "Turn-key basis".
2. **O & M Period:** 120 (One hundred twenty) calendar months.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 07.11.2024, 10 A.M.**
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 06.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M**
5. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid : Chief Engineer, **Megalift A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar,Pin - 751022**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-32504/11/0007/2425

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NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-1)
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 120/2024 IN OA No. 141/2021

Karnataka Bank Limited V/s CHANDRASHEKAR SHETTY

In the matter of (CH 1) Karnataka Bank Limited, Basaveshwarangara Branch, Bengaluru - 560 079 **... Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder**
Vs
(CD 1) Sri Chandraskhekar Shetty, S/o. Sri Vittal Shetty, No. 86, 4th Cross, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072.
(CD 2) Sri Nischith Shetty B. H. , S/o. Sri Hiriyanna Shetty B.,No.17/1, Sri Devi Nilaya, Near New Age Public School, Marathahalli Bengaluru - 560 037.
(CD 3) Sri Hiriyanna Shetty B., , S/o. Sri Venkatappa Shetty, No.17/1, Sri Devi Nilaya, Near New Age Public School, Marathahalli Bengaluru - 560 037.
(CD 4) M/s Bunt Solar India Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Interim Resolution Professional (IRP)/ Liquidator Sri Gorur N. Venkataraman
Corporate Address: No. 23/T4, MM Complex, Marilingapppa Layout, Papareddy Palya, Nagarabhavi, 2nd stage, Bengaluru - 560 072.
IRP/Liquidator Address : 8, 1st Floor, 4th Main, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 018. **... Defendants/Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-1) in **OA /141/2021** an amount of **Rs.97966045.81** (Rupees Nine Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Sixty Six Thousands Forty Five and Paise Eighty One Only) along cost, expenses and future interest @18.80% p.a. Compound interest monthly w.e.f. 29.01.2021 till realization and costs of Rs.150005 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands and Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Libility Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD 1): Sri Chandrashekar Shetty (CD 2): Sri Nischith Shetty B. H (CD 3): Sri Hiriyanna Shetty B	Compound Interest Monthly	18.80% p.a.	29.01.2021	28.04.2023	Jointly and severally	**97966045.81**

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **15.05.2024**

Sd/- (P H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS) Recovery Officer-2, Debts Recovery Tribunal -1, Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Approximate Estimate Contract Value (in Crores)
EP.No.07/CGM(E)/ STP Circle-II/ AMRUT-2.0/16STPs-ULBs-ORR/Pack-I/ 2024-25, Dated: 02.11.2024	Construction of 16 STPs of 493.50 MLD capacity in HAM Mode for ULBs between GHMC and ORR including MoM for a period of 15 years - Package-I- under AMRUT-2.0 (TRANCHE-III).	➢**ECV put to tender is Rs.909.30 Cr.** ➢**O&M cost Rs.530.60 Cr for 15 years and quoted TP applicable on O&M cost. (Total cost Rs.1878.55 Cr.)**

(1) The bid documents download starts online on or after: **07.11.2024. (2)** Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - **Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-II, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004. (3)** The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. **(4)** Further details can be seen @ **http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004

LOST DOCUMENT

We, M/s BABA DEVELOPERS PVT LTD represented by its Managing Director Mr.P SASIBHUSHAN, R/o Plot No.12A, Hegganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562110. We have lost our sale deeds vide Doct. No Nos.889/2000-2001, 2129/2001-2002, 1981/2001-2002, 2391/2001-2002, 2932/2001-02,892/2003-04 regd at Bangalore while shifting our office within BANGALORE. If anyone found pls cont: **+91 9900014429.**

CCL Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram
Chennai-600127, Tamil Nadu, India
(An Institute of National Importance under MoE, Govt. of India)

ADMISSION TO Ph.D PROGRAMME - JAN 2025

Advt. No.: IIITDM/PhD/Admission/03/01/Jan-2025 dated 25/10/2024

IIITDM Kancheepuram located at outskirts of Chennai is an Institute of National Importance setup by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. IIITDM Kancheepuram invites online applications for admission to PhD programme for JAN 2025 session.

Online application form and information regarding academic qualifications, eligibility and financial assistance are available on the Institute website (**http://www.iiitdm.ac.in**). Contact us on **phdadmission@iiitdm.ac.in** for additional information.

Last date for online application: 11.11.2024 **Registrar**

Kerala Maritime Board
(A Statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Development of
State-of-the-Art Maritime Educational Hub
at Neendakara, Kollam, Kerala in PPP Mode.

EOI Ref No: HOKMB-TVM/1117/2024-EI, Dated: 24-10-2024

Due Date of Submission: 10-12-2024

Kerala Maritime Board is soliciting Expression of Interest from interested parties for developing a State-of-the-Art Maritime Educational Hub by leveraging the existing infrastructure and picturesque land at Neendakara, Kollam, Kerala in PPP mode.

Email Id: kmb.kerala@gmail.com
For details visit: www.kmb.kerala.gov.in

EDITORIAL

People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election

Otto von Bismarck

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

STRONG PUSHBACK ON SHAH SLUR AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN CANADA

BY naming the second most powerful person in India as having ordered offensive action against Khalistani elements in Canada—without producing proof—Canadian minister David Morrison did a hatchet job of trying to tarnish reputation. He was of course fronting for beleaguered PM Justin Trudeau, who is on a diplomatic wrecking ball. With each swing, he is getting shriller and more desperate as the resonance he anticipated from voters isn't quite building up. His domestic unpopularity made him a liability, which is why more and more powerful voices from within want him out to save his party from slipping into the abyss. Developed democracies don't make wild allegations from the pulpit; tinpot dictators like Kim Jong Un do. Good democracies provide hard evidence that can be corroborated within four corners of the law. Had Trudeau managed to stitch it together, his administration could have easily presented it before a court hearing the case against the murder of Khalistani radical and Canadian national Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia last year. Instead, the prosecution sought at least five consecutive adjournments, possibly indicating the inferior quality of evidence.

If Trudeau said there were credible allegations the Indian government was involved in Nijjar's killing, Morrison told *The Washington Post* the person alluded to was Union home minister Amit Shah. The Indian foreign office admonished Canada for the baseless reference to Shah, adding such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties. Interestingly, while internal security is part of Shah's portfolios, external threats—like the Khalistani one—are dealt with by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Canada has also just added India to its list of cybercrime adversaries, bunching it with known rogues like China, Russia, Iran and North Korea. India has demonstrable strike ability beyond its geographical borders for global good on the high seas, like protecting shipments from piracy and on the dangerous Red Sea. But coercive action elsewhere—except in Islamabad to dismantle terror factories—is not part of New Delhi's foreign policy objectives unless Ottawa can prove otherwise. The onus is on Trudeau. India is against his divisive agenda of tapping the Sikh sympathy votes in his land by harbouring radicals and criminals, not Canadians in general.

KERALA FIREWORKS BLAST SHOWS LURKING DANGER

THE explosion during a fireworks display at a temple in Kerala's Kasaragod district, in which around 150 people were injured, is a grim reminder of what to expect if safety regulations are ignored. It comes at a time when Kerala is debating the new stringent restrictions imposed by the Union government on fireworks displays. Some sections in Kerala, including politicians, have taken objection to them. Fireworks accidents have become a regular occurrence in the state, so frequent that people now find it easier to ignore them and move on. That's exactly what happened in this case. About 100 of those injured in the October 29 explosion are still in hospitals, a handful battling for lives, yet the accident has ceased to be a news item and is slowly fading from public memory.

It was in 2016 that Kerala witnessed its worst fireworks tragedy, in which 110 people died and about 350 injured at a temple at Puttingal in Kollam. While the state government set up a judicial commission to investigate, the Centre sent a four-member team of experts. Both gave their recommendations, which have since remained trapped in red tape, ignored by those they were meant to guide. It has become routine for authorities to bow to pressure from politicians and religious bodies and turn a blind eye to violations. Every disaster exposes the same set of problems: use of prohibited chemicals and high-intensity fireworks, involvement of unskilled people, flouting of safe distance rules, and lack of crowd control. Competition among organisers is another factor that makes these displays dangerous.

That politicians across party lines criticised the new rules and Kerala revenue minister K Rajan even wrote a letter to the PM seeking relaxations shows how seriously they take these accidents and underlines their basic approach towards safety. The accident underscores an urgent need to revisit the practice of holding massive fireworks displays as part of rituals. If they have to be held, all regulations must be strictly followed and authorities must ensure safety is not compromised. Strict licensing norms, demarking safety zones, comprehensive training programmes for personnel involved and public awareness campaigns can help lower risks. Electronic/digital displays, shifting the emphasis from sound to light and colour as done in developed nations and international events, and a total ban on high-decibel fireworks should be considered. Allowing competitive pyrotechnics that endanger people should not be an option.

QUICK TAKE

VOTE ON HEALTH

A survey on public perception of health services in India has sharpened focus on the issue's impact on electoral outcomes. The study, conducted by researchers from India and the UK across five states, showed less satisfied voters are more likely to blame the local government when things go bad, whereas state and national health authorities get more credit. One takeaway is while welfare schemes like cash transfers have come centre-stage, health has receded on election manifestos. In a nation where every year is an election year of some consequence, there is need to bring back health as a big issue to vote on.

ELECTIONS in the United States are great equalisers, when there is an epic struggle to convince voters that the candidates are one of 'them'. The presidential election season in 2024 is no different.

If the US Constitution is amended to stipulate that when the White House falls vacant every four years, new applicants for tenancy should be at least millionaires, it would lend a sense of realism to American presidential elections. Candidates for the most powerful political office in the world would not then have to engage in ridiculous antics such as serving French fries at a McDonald's drive-in counter to identify themselves with ordinary voters, as Republican Donald Trump did in late October.

Candidates competing to occupy the White House, especially from the Republican Party, are more often than not multi-millionaires, if not billionaires. Trump is only the latest example. Previous Grand Old Party nominees John McCain of the Anheuser-Busch beer conglomerate family, the Bush household—and their vice president Dick Cheney—with vast oil industry connections, and film actor Ronald Reagan were all infinitely wealthy. Long gone are the days when Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican chief executive who was not a millionaire, could rise from a humble log cabin to presidency.

In the third millennium, Democrats are not very different. There was a time when presidential nominees from the Democratic Party were more *aam aadmi*, as Indians would say. Their lives and fortunes were more like the millions who vote for them. Democrat Harry Truman was the poorest president in US history. In 1949, the US Congress had to double Truman's salary so he could make both ends meet in the White House. The US presidency became a pensionable job only in 1958—because Truman, by then a retiree, was slipping into penury.

According to *Fortune* magazine, vice president and Democratic presidential candidate in the 2024 election, Kamala Harris, has a net worth of $8 million, together with the assets of her husband, Doug Emhoff. The incumbent second gentleman is a lawyer, one of the most high-paying professions in the US. Shyamala Gopalan, the late mother of Harris, was an oncologist when the medical profession was not as lucrative as it is today.

Since Harris is not super-rich—half her net worth is from a Los Angeles mansion, according to *Forbes*—she does not have to struggle to appear equal to her constituents, unlike Trump. At worst, she had to cook masala dosas with celebrity actress Mindy Kaling to endear herself to Indian Americans when she made an unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2019.

She is still struggling with the Indian American community to live down her life-long identification as black, via her father of Jamaican descent. However, in order not to have a voter identity complex in the biggest fight of her political career, Harris has repeatedly said during her current campaign that she worked in McDonald's in the 1980s to partly pay for her law degree at the University of California.

The persevering and intrepid US media being what it is, dug up her 1987 curriculum vitae, when Harris applied for a law clerk's job in the District Attorney's office in a California county. That biodata made no mention of her having worked at any McDonald's. Nor did her 2010 memoir narrate her fast-food worker experience.

Trump's decision to don a McDonald's apron at the French fries counter of a Pennsylvania fast-food franchise was Republican campaign fodder to claim Harris lied about her time at McDonald's. Employment at a junk food restaurant patronised by the not-so-wealthy is to the average American voter the equivalent in India of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi having meals in Dalit homes, trailed by television cameras and reporters. It is not far from the truth that both these gimmicks amount to glorification of poverty and variations of poverty tourism. Like tours of Brazil's vast *favelas* (slums) that are sometimes spread as far as the eyes can see.

The poorest locations in the poorest US cities will have at least one fast-food chain serving the cheapest and most unhealthy junk food. That is an ugly American reality, exploited by politicians from both the main parties during the poll season. No different from election campaigns in developing countries of the South Asian subcontinent.

The biggest electoral blunder during the current campaign was made by President Joe Biden—who is notorious for putting his foot in the mouth. Biden described supporters of Trump as "garbage" in the final phase of electioneering, prompting Republicans to allege that Democrats have no respect for ordinary, working-class Americans. In an extremely tight election, the President's gaffe is certain to cost Harris enough votes in one swing state or another to lose the White House—unless Biden's ongoing hair-splitting by bending over backwards to control the damage yields results. In 2016, voters viewed Democrat Hillary Clinton as privileged and entitled after she similarly said that half of her then rival Trump's supporters are from a "basket of deplorables".

In the 2012 presidential election, Republican Mitt Romney arguably lost millions of votes when a barman secretly recorded and later leaked the candidate's very similar comments at a closed-door fundraiser. Romney said about supporters of his rival and then President Barack Obama: "There are 47 percent (of Americans) who are with him...these people pay no income tax...my job is not to worry about those people...they will vote for this president no matter what." Romney is a fabulously wealthy American, vastly unequal to the majority of his people.

Probably the worst example of a candidate's inability to be equal to his people was during McCain's 2008 run against Obama. A journalist asked the rich Republican candidate how many homes he owned. McCain was not sure. "I will have my staff to get to you. I will have them get to you," he answered. Obama immediately seized on the incident to point out that his multi-millionaire rival was completely out of touch with the people.

Obama was not rich. He was a civil rights attorney and a community worker before he went into politics. Post-presidency, his net worth is $250 million, earned mostly from writing books and making speeches.

(Views are personal)
(kpnayar@gmail.com)

Employment at a junk food restaurant is the equivalent of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi having meals in Dalit homes. In the end, both these gimmicks amount to glorification of poverty

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TRYING TO BE 'RELATABLE'

K P NAYAR
Strategic Analyst

SOURAV ROY

THE LAND OF FRAGRANT, PRECIOUS AND HOLY TREES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

MY Deepavali prayer each year has been 'May our land be blessed, may our lives be blessed'. And we have good reason to be charmed by the interplay of biodiversity, ecology and religion, by how religion and culture are inseparably married to India through nature.

Trees in particular have environmental and economic significance, historical importance, religious and mythological relevance and usage in food, medicine, commerce, art, agriculture and cultivation.

Our sacred trees include wood apple, jackfruit, neem, red silk-cotton, flame of the forest, Alexandrian laurel, coconut palm, banyan, Indian fig, pipal, mahua, champaka, mango, bullet wood (bakul or maulsari), kadamba, coral jasmine, screwpine, Indian gooseberry, Indian gum, sandalwood, ashoka, sal, trumpet flower, jamun, tamarind, arjuna and ber or jujube.

The association of each tree with gods and temples is fascinating and tells us things we may not know, including which of the 27 *nakshatra* or lunar asterisms in the Indian zodiac that a tree is associated with.

For instance, the wood apple or bilva is linked to the star *Chittirai*, which is the 14th *nakshatra*. The wood apple is usually thought of as belonging to Lord Shiva; many of us have enjoyed bel sherbet in season or offered a sprig of three-leaved bel to Lord Shiva on Mondays and Mahashivratri. Moreover, the wood apple is also closely associated with Goddess Lakshmi.

The ber, according to Punjabi legend, is the 'sorrow-removing tree'. The jackfruit is the national tree of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, plus Kerala and Tamil Nadu's state tree.

In my teens, I had to pass by a champaka tree to take the 'university special' bus to college. I was haunted long after by the heartbreaking scent of the champaka, its yellow petals like knife blades, its long buds elegantly shaped. Its botanical name is *Michelia champaka*. A fragment, ill-learnt, of the *Ramayana*, came up for air: '*chiribilva madhuka cha vanjula vakula tatha champaka tilaka cha eva nagavriksha cha pushpita*', generally meaning, 'How charming they look, the bilva and madhuka; and the vakula, champaka, tilaka and naga, blossoming', from Valmiki's *Ramayana*, *Kishkinda Kanda*, chapter one.

Also, champakas grew around the cottage in Panchavati by the Godavari, so they were witness to terrible things like Surpanakha's disfigurement, the golden deer, and Sita's abduction.

There is a piquant saying in Hindi about the champaka: "*Champa, tujh mein teen hai, roop, rang aur baas/Karan tujh mein kya hai bhanwar na jaaye paas?*" "Champa, you have the three qualities of form, colour and scent / Why then do bees never come near you?" This is an unsolved botanical mystery, if true.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The champaka tree has elegantly shaped flowers, with yellow petals like knife blades. They grew around the cottage in Panchavati by the Godavari, so they were witness to terrible things like Surpanakha's disfigurement, the golden deer, and Sita's abduction

I am also fascinated by the Alexandrian laurel. This is because I've read it was used by ancient Chola ship-builders to make ships for the navy that Rajendra Chola sent across the Eastern seas over a thousand years ago. Its Sanskrit name is *nagchampa* and Tamil name is *punnaga*. It is said to be loved by Lord Shiva, like the bel. It seems it is still used for boat-building.

The amla or myrobalan has its own history. I've read 'half an amla fruit was the final gift from Emperor Ashoka to the Buddhist Sangha', as an emblem of humility.

Saptaparni is Sanskrit for 'seven-leaved'. This tree's leaves grow seven or eight to a sprig. Saptaparni is also a name for girls. Said to be introduced to Delhi as recently as 1940, this tree has an ancient past elsewhere in the land, especially in the annals of Ayurveda. Its bark-extract is said to boost immunity and help treat tummy disorders, malaria and epilepsy.

Out south, it is called *paala*, *paalai* and *ezh-ilai*. I've read a theory that Palakkad, celebrated as the 'granary of Kerala' and the 'gateway to Kerala' from the Western ghats, may have got its name from being covered, once upon a time, by a *kaad* (forest) of *paala* trees.

On the eastern seaboard, the saptaparni is the state tree of West Bengal. It's called *chatim* in Bengali. Graduating students of Vishvabharati University are ceremonially handed a sprig of saptaparni at convocation. I'm told there's a story behind this graceful tradition.

Vishvabharati University was originally founded as an alternative Indian school in 1921 by Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan in Birbhum district, West Bengal. But before that, in the 19th century, Shantiniketan was apparently the name given to the only pukka building in a quiet, scenic village called Bhubandanga after Bhuban Mohan Sinha, the zamindar of Raipur.

One day in 1862, Debendranath Tagore, the poet's father, happened to pass by while on a journey to Raipur. Charmed by the beauty of the village and given to serious spiritual practice, he halted there for some days and spent time meditating in a grove of saptaparni trees.

He felt so light and happy there that he bought himself 20 bighas of land and built a spiritual retreat he named Shantiniketan, where his son eventually set up his school.

Another tree that's famously called 'seven-leaved' is the banana plant. In the *Aranya Kand*, *Sarga* 75 of the *Ramayana*, while in search of Sita, Rama and Lakshmana halt at the lovely Pampa Lake. The trees, plants, flowering bushes and creepers around it listed by Valmiki are still found across India, and some of their names may be found even today as people's names: Tilaka, Bakula, Mallika, Ashoka, Malati, Kunda, Madhavi, Lata. So, along with matters of faith and geography, we bear our land and culture in our very names.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Normalising opportunism

Ref: *Pawar's last stand to save legacy, dynasty* (Nov 3). The author has waxed eloquent on Sharad Pawar's Machiavellian capabilities, ignoring the various corruption charges, scams and underworld dealings alleged on him. It is this kind of normalisation of political opportunism and corruption of the political class that emboldens unscrupulous politicians.
N Balakrishnan, Chennai

Shrewd politician

Pawar is a shrewd practitioner of 'politics is the art of the possible, the attainable and the art of the next best'. He is an unscrupulous, opportunistic and deft politician in search of success even in defeats and setbacks.
C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Movie dumping

Ref: *The stars staying dim on Bollywood* (Nov 3). While it was difficult to predict a movie's success or failure at any time, it has become all the more complex today. As the author had clearly mentioned, scriptwriters and directors are the captains of any film. If they are not encouraged to write on new topics, we will be flooded with rubbish only in the name of 'entertainment'.
G Raman Devavratan, email

India's economy

Ref: *Fiscal fragilities & Faustian fracas on freebies* (Nov 3). This is a thought-provoking analysis of the current state of India's economy. Giving away freebies can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can create a culture of dependency, making people idle and complacent. On the other hand, it can be a recipe for disaster, leading to economic decline and recession.
Avinashiappan Myilsami, Sulur

Lacklustre performance

In one of its worst performances at home, India was completely outclassed in the entire series and now finds itself in a very difficult situation in respect of qualifying for the WTC final. With the most important away series against the Aussies coming up, this lacklustre performance against the Kiwis is hardly the result the Men In Blue were looking for. The poor form of our top batsmen in every test match hardly inspired confidence in the team.
C M Umanath, Kozhikode

Humiliating defeat

This is one of the most humiliating defeats for team India at home and skipper Rohit Sharma can't have any excuse for this shocking performance. Full credit goes to New Zealand for their absolute commitment and application in all departments of the game.
A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
The decline in TB incidence is an outcome of India's dedicated and innovative efforts. Through a collective spirit, we will keep working towards a TB-free India.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Why has the non-biological PM's government denied the ₹1.36 lakh crore it owes the Jharkhand government on account of coal royalties?

Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah
Today's news of a grenade attack on innocent shoppers at the 'Sunday market' in Srinagar is deeply disturbing. There can be no justification for targeting innocent civilians.

Will oppose SC status to Dalit converts: NCSC chief

Commission of Inquiry was given 1-year extension to look into the matter

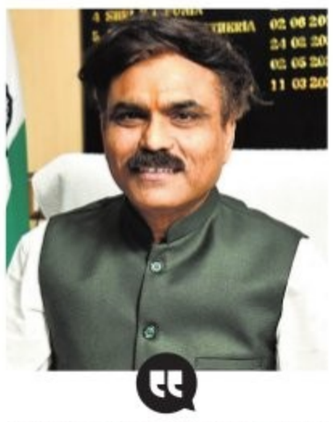
PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is strongly against granting Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Dalits who have converted to Islam and Christianity, said **Kishor Makwana**, the commission's chairman.

Speaking to this newspaper, Makwana said the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 under Article 341 mandates that any person professing a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism cannot be considered a member of the Scheduled Caste.

A presidential order of 1950 says only Dalits from the Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist communities can be considered a member of the SC list.

The panel head's assertion comes a day after the Centre granted a one-year extension to the Commission of inquiry to examine if the SC status can be granted to all Dalit converts. The commission headed by former CJI KG Balakrishnan was set up in October 2022 to consider all aspects of the possible grant of SC status to "new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to SCs but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the presidential orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution". The NCSC was mandated to submit the report by October 10 this year.



The converted people are no longer Hindus, then according to the interpretation given in the Constitution, the question of their being a Scheduled Caste ends

Kishor Makwana, NCSC chairman

The commission has been engaging with stakeholders, including sociologists, historians, and representatives from affected communities, to better understand the nuances of caste identity in the context of religious conversion, officials said.

However, Makwana said the reservation system is caste-based and is based on untouchability faced by backward castes. "The converted people are no longer Hindus, then according to the interpretation given in the Constitution, the question of their being a Scheduled Caste ends," he said.

It is against the basic spirit of the Constitution, said Makwana. "Giving the SC tag to Dalit converts will also promote conversion. It will be a great injustice to the people of the SC community," he added.

If the converts get the SC status, the Pune agreement made in the interest of the SC community by the tireless efforts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will also have no value, he said. "This will be a betrayal of Ambedkar and the entire SC community," he said..

While the ruling BJP has been opposed to giving SC status to Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity, several Dalit groups have been demanding the SC status to the Dalit converts. However, activists say that while the previous governments have instituted several committees, no action has been taken so far.

Beant Singh assassination: SC to hear convict plea to commute death sentence

SUCHITRA K MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court will hear on Monday a petition filed by Balwant Singh Rajoana, who is convicted in former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh's assassination case.

Rajoana's plea seeks commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment, citing the inordinate delay in the government deciding his mercy plea.

Rajoana, a former Punjab Police constable who has been in jail for 28 years awaiting execution, said in his plea that the Centre has not taken a decision on his March 25, 2012 mercy petition till date.

Both the Centre and Punjab government will spell out their respective stands on the plea on Monday, before a three-judge bench headed by Justice BR Gavai, and also comprising Justices PK Mishra and Justice KV Viswanathan.

Beant Singh and 16 others were killed in an explosion outside the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995.

Rajoana's plea submitted that he has been in jail for more than 28 years and on death row for 17 years. Senior lawyer and former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Rajoana, had argued that he cannot be made to wait indefinitely citing national security. "Keeping the petitioner on death row while sitting over his mercy plea for such a long time violates his fundamental rights," Rohatgi argued.

Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, appearing for the Ministry of Home Affairs, had contended that the mercy petition cannot be considered as it was filed by the Siromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and not by Rajoana himself. He said it cannot be decided until the appeals of other convicts were decided by the top court.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Ex-Army man seeks to quash rape case

A two-judge bench will hear on Monday the plea filed by retired Captain Rakesh Walia, a 63-year-old decorated Army officer, seeking quashing of a charge sheet against him in an alleged rape case. Walia's petition in top court challenges an order of the Delhi High Court, which had dismissed his plea before it.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X @Shahid_Faridi_

World Economy

BRICS TO ERECT FENCING AGAINST WEST SANCTIONS

The Kazan Declaration, adopted by the BRICS nations at their 16th summit under Russia's chairmanship, expressed concern about the "disruptive effect of unlawful unilateral coercive measures, including illegal sanctions" on the world economy, international trade, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It stated that such measures undermine the UN Charter and the multilateral trading system, while also negatively impacting economic growth, energy, health, and food security. According to sources, BRICS chair Russia proposed an economic "fencing" mechanism against unilateral Western sanctions to safeguard BRICS nations from economic disruption. Sources said there was no opposition to the proposal, and Russia has offered to prepare a concept note for consideration and adoption by all member countries at the next summit in Brazil in 2025. The note on economic fencing is likely to be circulated among BRICS nations "within a month or two," sources indicated. This proposal has not been included in the Kazan Declaration. The major BRICS countries disregarded U.S. sanctions against Russia following its attack on Ukraine and continued business with it. India continued buying Russian oil, while China-Russia trade remained unaffected. However, the removal of Russian banks from the SWIFT financial transaction system caused significant business disruption for the country. Now, BRICS countries plan to establish a mechanism to facilitate uninterrupted trade and commerce among members in the event of adversarial economic actions by a non-BRICS nation. BRICS members have already tasked their finance ministers and central bank governors with facilitating payment settlements in local currencies and developing additional payment instruments and platforms before the 2025 summit.

Jharkhand Elections

VENUGOPAL MEET FAILS TO ENTHUSE CONG LEADERS

Congress General Secretary in charge of organisation, K C Venugopal, travelled to Ranchi last week to unite and galvanise the discontented state unit of the party. Before arriving in the state capital, Venugopal sent a message expressing his desire to meet with all district and constituency observers, as well as other party leaders, on November 1. The state unit informed him that it would be challenging to gather all observers the day after Diwali. However, at Venugopal's insistence, the meeting was convened on November 1. Out of 182 invitees — which included state party office-bearers, screening committee and war room members, in addition to the observers — only around fifty turned up. Ordinary party workers were called in hastily to fill up the hall. According to sources, as the meeting commenced, state party leaders launched a no-holds-barred critique of the candidate selection process. Former state party president Rajesh Thakur stated that Rahul Gandhi's intention to provide proper representation to all segments was disregarded by the selectors, noting that Scheduled Castes and minorities had not been given adequate representation. Former state Youth Congress president Mani Shankar and several other leaders echoed Thakur's concerns, raising the issue of poor candidate selection. Some leaders accused the party leadership of not being genuinely committed to winning the election. Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad, present at the meeting as an observer, tried unsuccessfully to placate the state leaders. He noted that despite being a former AICC General Secretary in charge of Jharkhand, he had been assigned responsibility for just two assembly constituencies. "You can understand how serious the party is about the elections," he remarked. His comments drew laughter and were perceived as a critique of the state of Congress in Jharkhand. The meeting soon turned chaotic and ended abruptly. According to sources, an upset Venugopal left Ranchi without addressing a press conference that had been planned following the meeting.

Irked by Hindi replies from Centre, Kerala MP pens letter in Malayalam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

RAJYA Sabha MP **John Brittas** MP on Sunday raised objections to Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu writing official responses to him in Hindi. To register his protest, Brittas wrote an official letter to Bittu in Malayalam pointing out that the repeated Hindi-only replies suggest a deliberate policy.

Language issues are a concern for all MPs from southern states, he said in the letter.

"As per clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, English has also to be used for all official purposes of the Union and for the transaction of business in Parliament. Moreover, the Act explicitly provides under the first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 3 that English shall be used for communication between the Union and any State which has not adopted Hindi as its official language," the letter read.

"These provisions are intended to uphold the linguistic inclusivity of the Parliament, particularly with representatives from the southern states, where Hindi is neither the official language nor widely spoken and to ensure unimpeded communication across linguistic diversities. The recent pattern of Hindi-only replies contravenes these statutory language provisions, posing a barrier to effective communication and hindering MPs from non-Hindi-speaking regions in their parliamentary work," the MP from Kerala said.

Brittas's Malayalam letter was a direct response to a series of replies he received exclusively in Hindi from the Railway Ministry in RS.

"Historically, the Union governments, conscious of both legal obligations and conventions, had consistently respected this language provision by issuing communications in English to MPs from non-Hindi-speaking states. But this considerate practice appears to have recently diverged, warranting correction," Brittas said.

Updated action plan to tackle biodiversity loss sets 23 goals

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

INDIA launched an updated biodiversity action plan, outlining 23 objectives to reduce threats to biodiversity, ensure sustainable use of resources, and enhance tools for implementation in next five years.

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh released the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia.

"Released India's updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan," said Singh in a post on X. India's targets aligned with the 23 global goals set under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted at the 15th UN Biodiversity Conference in Canada in 2022.

India's updated biodiversity action plan aims to protect at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas and ensure the loss of highly biodiverse areas is close to zero by 2030, in line with global biodiversity targets.

The updated NBSAP intends to conserve India's over 55,000 plant groups and 100,000 animal species. Explaining India's approach to biodiversity conservation, Singh said, "India has adopted a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach while updating its NBSAP and its targets are aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. India has submitted its national biodiversity targets as per national circumstances, priorities and capabilities. Our commitment and actions will go a long way in advancing the objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity."

REALIGNED STRATEGIES

- The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan contains **23** objectives to reduce threats to biodiversity, ensure sustainable use of resources, and enhance tools for implementation in next **5** years
- The action plan focuses on ecosystem-based management, a bottom-up approach for implementation, mainstreaming biodiversity, sectoral integration and inter-agency cooperation
- It underlines agro-biodiversity as critical for food security

IT INTENDS TO CONSERVE OVER **55,000** PLANT TAXA AND **1,00,000** ANIMAL SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY

The updated NBSAP focuses on ecosystem-based management, a bottom-up approach for implementation, mainstreaming biodiversity, sectoral integration and inter-agency cooperation. It also underlines that agrobiodiversity is recognised as critical for food security.

The recently concluded COP16 biodiversity talks in Colombia yielded mixed results. Rich nations, including the European Union, Japan, and Canada, blocked a proposal to set up a new fund to help the poorer nations restore depleted natural resources.

Plan afoot to preserve legacy of Indian cinema

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AS part of their continuing efforts, the National Film Development Corporation of India - National Film Archive of India (NFDC-NFAI) will soon embark on a path-breaking journey to achieve another milestone for preservation of India's cinematic legacy. The plan is to conserve film scripts, disc records, movie posters, lobby cards (a set of images used to promote a movie displayed in cinema halls), costumes, newspaper clipping, film magazines and equipment.

About a month back, the minister of information and broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw held a meeting with officials in Mumbai to discuss the modalities and identification of objects to be preserved. Noted screenwriter and the chairman of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Prasoon Joshi attended the meeting in which several decisions were taken to safeguard film heritage.

Officials privy to the matter said that the project is likely to begin after the ongoing National Film Heritage Mission — launched to restore and preserve old and classic Indian films — is concluded next year.

1 & 2. Posters of Tere Ghar Ke Saamne (1963) and Teesri Manzil (1966) directed by Vijay Anand **3.** Shyama on a coloured lobby card from Ghar Ghar Me Diwali (1955) **4.** A gun-toting Madhubala on the song booklet cover of Khazana (1951) | EXPRESS

"The project is in the preliminary stage and identification of material to be digitised is yet to be decided upon. It is likely to be launched after the NFHM is concluded, which is set to happen in 2025. Digitisation of disc records is one of the initiatives under this project, other initiatives will soon be finalised and then further process to achieve the target; engaging of experts will also be decided subsequently," said officials.

Speaking at the National Film Awards ceremony in October, Vaishnaw stressed upon preservation of film heritage. "We really need to preserve our films. Important decisions have been taken to ensure preservation of each and every part of our film heritage; the posters, equipment and even newspapers clipping of those times. That is a valuable treasure, which can't be created again. We may create a new heritage but we must protect what we have already created," he said.

NFDC-NFAI is a subset of NFDC, a unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The agency has a vast collection of film reels and ancillary material including posters, lobby cards, photos, production notes, cameras, studio lights, and glass slides from pre-cinema era, at its facilities in Pune.

The NFAI has been the preservers and custodians of Indian cinema and other material related to it for six decades. The collection features rare and significant material such as magazines Variety (1932), Filmfare (1952), Chitra (1935), Screen (1951) and Mother India (1961).

Under the new project, the materials in possession of private individuals or institutions such as prosthetics, costumes and set models may also be taken up for restoration.

Once the preservation and conservation is completed, the conserved heritage objects will be put on display for film enthusiasts, researchers and students.

Govt announces Republic Day parade theme, states told to work on floats

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE theme for the 2025 Republic Day parade is 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas.' It would seek to focus on India's heritage and development. The Centre has instructed all ministries, state governments, and Union Territories to create tableaux that align with the theme.

In its guidelines, the government emphasizes the involvement of local artists and talents in conceptualising the tableaux. "If a tableau incorporates a folk dance, it must feature an authentic dance style, with traditional costumes and musical instruments, ensuring thematic unity between the tableau and the performance," says a guideline.

As quality and environmental consciousness are paramount; all materials used in constructing the tableaux must be of the highest quality, and eco-friendly. The guidelines explicitly prohibit plastic and plastic-based products.

In an effort to encourage the integration of technology to enhance the visual appeal and diversity of the tableaux, the guidelines urge creators to avoid monotonous designs. Proposals for the tableaux will undergo evaluation by an expert committee from the Ministry of Defence through a series of meetings, ensuring that they meet the established criteria.

A full dress rehearsal before Republic Day parade in January 2024 | FILE PHOTO

Sources indicated that all departments are actively ideating their tableaux to align with this year's theme. The Railways' tableau is likely to focus on the Chenab Bridge.

In the 2024, the theme had been 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matruka' (India – the mother of democracy).

TEEN SURGERY

A 15-year-old boy from UP's Hathras died a day after a major surgery was performed on him at a Delhi hospital to remove 56 objects such as watch batteries, blades, nails and other metal fragments from his stomach.

2 KIDS MISSING AS BOAT CAPSIZES IN GANGA IN KATIHAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

■ State Cong chief writes to PM, warns of crisis among growers ■ CM insists on existing Acts to protect tribal rights

Oppn makes cotton Maha plank, seeks import ban

Adverse weather has damaged cotton across 19 lakh hectares this year. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is benefiting insurance firms and not farmers. The government should ban cotton imports

Nana Patole

Cotton belt

Vidarbha, Marathwada and north Maharashtra comprise the state's cotton belt. These regions are significant politically, electing more than 150 MLAs in 288-member Assembly. In LS elections, the BJP faced backlash

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

IN the run-up to the Maharashtra assembly elections, the Congress-led opposition has aggressively raised the cotton growers' problems. State Congress chief Nana Patole has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the Central government to impose an immediate ban on cotton imports and instruct the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to purchase cotton at a guaranteed price.

A ban on import of cotton bales can boost the domestic cotton prices and help the farmers to get fair rates.

Maharashtra ranks second in the country for cotton production, with over 40 lakh farmers engaged in cotton farming. Despite the state producing an ample cotton yield, reports of import of 22 lakh bales of cotton have raised concerns about a potential crash in domestic cotton prices.

The CCI also has 11 lakh million unsold bales in the stock. In his letter to the PM, Patole has said that the current cotton price stands between ₹6,500 and ₹6,600 per quintal, which is below the government-administered minimum support price of ₹7,122.

"With the low market price, farmers have refrained from selling their cotton. Cotton stocks are held by farmers as well as by the CCI. Importing cotton when the country already has such a large stock would result in the collapse of the domestic cotton market, and will significantly impact farmers while benefiting only traders," Patole said.

Vidarbha, Marathwada and north Maharashtra comprise the state's cotton belt. These regions are significant politically, electing more than 150 MLAs in the 288-member Assembly. In Lok sabha elections, the BJP faced backlash due to cotton, soyabean and onion issues.

"The cotton harvest has started and farmers are expecting good prices for their produces. It is also fair because over a period of time, the input cost has increased considerably, but the prices have remained static," said Vijay Jawandia, a farmer leader.

Earlier the cotton was sold at ₹9,000 to ₹10,000 per quintal but today, it is selling between ₹5,000 and ₹6000 per quintal. "If the government does not intervene, then farmers will be driven to suicide," said Jawandia.

Won't allow UCC, Centre to blame for infiltration: Soren

BJP always mentions Bangladeshi infiltration. It must tell us if there is any agreement with them. Why did you allow the plane carrying its ex-PM to land in India?

Hemant Soren, CM

Questions Centre

The CM held Centre responsible for Bangladeshi infiltration in the state. "If the security of the international borders is the responsibility of the centre, then how can the state be blamed for the same?" he said.

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah's promise of introducing Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand drew a sharp reaction from Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who vowed that neither the UCC nor National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be implemented in Jharkhand. "Only Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act will remain here," Soren said.

The British enacted the CNT Act in 1908 in response to the Birsa Movement. The Act allows land transfers between people of the same caste and in certain geographical areas, with the approval of the district collector. It also restricts the sale of land owned by Adivasis and Dalits. The SPT Act came into being in 1876 in response to the Santhal Hul (rebellion). The SPT Act prohibits the transfer of Adivasi land to non-Adivasis. Land can only be inherited in accordance with the Act, which helps to preserve the Santhals' right to self-govern their land.

The two Acts have been criticized for being inconsistent and full of loopholes. Critics say that banks do not provide loans for land covered by these Acts, which contributes to poverty among tribal landowners.

Soren held Central government responsible for Bangladeshi infiltration in the state. "If the security of the international borders is the responsibility of the centre, then how can the state government be responsible for infiltration in Jharkhand?" Soren asked. Addressing an election rally at Garhwa for the Congress candidate, Mithilesh Thakur, Soren vowed that he would never allow Uniform Civil Code to be introduced in Jharkhand.

"Neither UCC nor NRC will be implemented in Jharkhand; only CNT, SPT will be remain here. I will never allow UCC – These people are engaged in breaking families, they spit poison", he added. "We have to stay away from these people. You have seen how many challenges we faced in the last five years," said Soren. He said the BJP talked about Bangladeshi infiltration, "it must tell us if there is any internal agreement with Bangladesh." "Why did you allow the plane carrying former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to land here? On what basis are you giving shelter to her?" Soren questioned.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

Patna Mohli residents' last Diwali in their village

For residents of Patna Mohli village in Sagar district, this was perhaps the last time they celebrated Diwali and associated festivities in their village. Their village is among those that will soon be part of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, leading them to look for alternative locations. Joining in their last Deepawali, Annakoot and Govardhan Puja celebrations in their village, was the former minister and their veteran BJP MLA Gopal Bhargava, who turned emotional while recounting his four decades old bonding with the village, which is last village of his Rehli assembly constituency.

No entry into Mahakal without RFID wristbands

Devotees at the treasured early morning Bhasma Arti at the world-famous Mahakal Temple in Ujjain, will have to wear smart RFID wristbands into the temple. After Deepawali, the temple management has introduced the new system for Bhasma Arti to prevent unauthorized and fraudulent entry of people during the early morning prayers. According to the temple management sources, the new system is being introduced to ensure only those who are issued the authentic entry passes actually attend arti. Also, it is aimed at shielding devotees from touts.

MP Cong chief's Diwali with tribals in Vijaypur

With the tribal voters holding the key to the party's poll prospects in the November 13 Vijaypur assembly seat by-election, state Congress chief Jitu Patwari celebrated Diwali with the community in the by-poll bound constituency of Gwalior-Chambal region recently. He also asked the tribal voters to teach the ruling BJP the befitting lesson on November 13. From decades, the Vijaypur seat has been synonymous to it's six-time Congress MLA Ramniwas Rawat, who is this time the BJP candidate after becoming state's forest minister. Taking on Rawat is ex-BJP man and tribal politician Mukesh Malhotra, who is now the Congress candidate.

RED ALERT

Maoists attack two cops, loot their weapons in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

THE Maoists attacked two police personnel who were deployed on duty at Jagargunda weekly Haat bazar, injuring them seriously, in an edgy district of Sukma, about 450 km south of Raipur on Sunday. The Maoists managed to escape snatching the service rifles of jawans following the incident.

The small action team (comprising 3-5 members) of the banned CPI (Maoists) carried out the attack with sharp-edged weapons on the police personnel leading to a chaotic situation in the weekly market, the Sukma police stated.

"In the sudden stealthy attack, two security men sustained serious injuries but their conditions remain out of danger. They have been admitted to a hospital for immediate medical attention. The area has been cordoned off by the forces and an intensive search operation has been launched in the region," an official said.

Sukma continues to be among the Maoist-affected districts that is witnessing a series of encounters against the left-wing extremists this year.

J&K Assembly session begins today as terror attacks surge

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE first session of the newly-elected Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, post Article 370 abrogation, would be held from Monday. Both the ruling National Conference-led alliance and opposition BJP formulated their strategies for the five-day session and it remains to be seen whether NC would move a resolution on Article 370 in the House as promised by the party before coming to power.

The first business of the newly elected Assembly is to elect the Speaker. The voting for the Speaker will take place at 10.30 am and senior NC leader Abdul Rahim Rather, who won his first Assembly election in 1977, would be first Speaker of J&K UT Assembly as he has been nominated by the party for the coveted post.

After the Speaker's election, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha would address the legislators. It would be interesting to note whether the L-G spells out the agenda of the Omar Abdullah government especially on restoration of statehood in his address or goes by his own agenda.

The Assembly session is taking place amid surge in militant violence in J&K after Omar government took charge following the Assembly polls, which was first since Article 370 abrogation.

Security personnel cordon off area after a grenade attack by terrorists in Srinagar | PTI

It remains to be seen whether the Omar-led NC government would move a resolution in the Assembly condemning August 5, 2019 decisions and seeking restoration of Article 370.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre scrapped Articles 370 and 35A, which granted special status and special privileges to J&K residents, and downgraded and bifurcated erstwhile J&K state into two UTs. The NC-Congress alliance won the first Assembly polls in J&K post Article 370 abrogation and formed the coalition government, which is also backed by five independents and a CPM MLA. The BJP legislators on Sunday met in Srinagar and elected Sunil Sharma as legislature party leader and Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the Assembly.

The party has decided to give a tough time to NC-led government and oppose any move on introducing resolution on Article 370 restoration, sources in BJP said. The NC-Congress, five independen ts and CPI (M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami supporting the Omar government held a meeting in Srinagar to chalk out strategy for the first session.

Nitish at it again, attempts to touch BJP leader's feet, causes embarrassment

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

IN yet another political drama, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was seen attempting to touch the feet of former Rajya Sabha member and senior BJP leader Rakesh Kumar Sinha, commonly known as R K Sinha, at an event in the state capital on Sunday. Nitish first greeted Sinha with folded hands and then tried to touch his feet, leaving the officials and the attendees at the event in utter shock. Even Sinha appeared embarrassed as the incident unfolded in full view of the public.

He was participating in an event at Nauzar Ghat temple in Patna City on the occasion of Chitragupta puja. The event was organised by BJP leader Sinha, who invited Nitish to attend. During the event, Nitish not only greeted Sinha with folded hands but also tried to touch his feet when he was addressing the people.

A video of the entire event went viral on social media. The TNIE doesn't authenticate the veracity of the viral video.

Nitish had previously made headlines when he was seen praying with folded hands to senior IAS officers, urging them to expedite the completion of ongoing development projects. The unusual behavior caught the bureaucrats off guard.

Recently, Nitish's actions have drawn criticism from the Opposition, which seized the opportunity to attack the CM. Tejashwi Yadav remarked, "Nitish se Bihar ab sambhal nahi raha hai. Wo ab thak chuke hain (Nitish is not in a condition to run the government effectively. He is simply tired now)," commenting on the sudden change in Nitish's interactions with with bureaucrats and politicians.

In addition, the JD(U) national president often visits the residences of his cabinet colleagues without any prior notice, which gives the Opposition an ammunition to attack him.

U'khand unemployment crisis: 21K applications for 24 home guard posts

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

MORE than 21,000 candidates, many of them postgraduates, have applied for only 24 home guard instructor posts in Uttarakhand, officials said, which spotlights the unemployment crisis in the hill state.

A Class 12 pass is eligible to apply for the post. "Among the applicants are M Tech, M Sc, M Com and B Sc degree holders as well as graduates and postgraduates from other streams," said an official involved in the recruitment process.

"The number of applicants who have completed only Class 12 is minimal," the official added.

Among the over 21,000 aspirants for 24 home guard instructor posts, Garhwal region accounts for about 12,000 and Kumaon over 8,500, officials said. With limited job opportunities elsewhere, the youth are pinning their hopes on the home guard department, where the age limit for recruitment is 18-35 years, they said.

Garhwal accounts for 12k

Among the over 21,000 aspirants for 24 home guard instructor posts, Garhwal region accounts for about 12,000 and Kumaon over 8,500, officials said. With limited job opportunities elsewhere, the youth are pinning their hopes on the Home Guard department, where the age limit for recruitment is 18-35 years, they said. A Class 12 pass is eligible to apply for the post, said an official

"I hold an MSc in Mathematics with first division. After long years of preparing for competitive exams without success, I saw my age slipping away. That's why I have applied for the havildar post in the Home Guard department," Rajeev Semwal, a resident of Uttarkashi, told this newspaper,

Department sources said that the Uttarakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission will conduct a written examination for the instructor posts in the home guard department. Uttarakhand has slipped to 15th position nationally in terms of unemployment rate, lagging behind its sibling states -- Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand -- carved out by the BJP government 25 years ago, according to official data.

The contrast is evident in the numbers: Jharkhand has low unemployment rate of 1.4 per cent, Chhattisgarh stands at 2.7 per cent and Uttarakhand at 4.9 per cent. Uttarakhand's Economic Survey for the financial year 2023-24, however, claims a huge reduction in the unemployment rate. The survey says the unemployment rate in Uttarakhand was 8.4 per cent in 2021-22, which has come down to 4.9 per cent in 2022-23.

It says there has been a huge decline in multidimensional poverty. In 2015-16, the rate of multidimensional poverty was 17.67 percent, which came down to 9.67 percent in 2019-21.

Bihar sex workers set to foray into culinary world

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

SEX workers of Bihar's Muzaffarpur are poised to foray into a new world -- cooking famous 'Champaran handi (earthen pot) mutton' and selling it to customers who value its test. Dancing and providing services to customers visiting their homes in Chaturbhujsthan red light area of the town will soon become a thing of the past.

Gopal Kushwaha, the proprietor of 'Champaran Handi Mutton' fame, on Sunday started imparting training to 10 sex workers of the red light area of Muzaffarpur.

He provided one month's raw material and utensils free of cost for preparing mutton. Juli Khatoon, Soni Parveen, Gudia, Chanda and Rehana were among the 10 women of the redlight area who were imparted training on cooking the mutton. "The profession we are associated with is looked down upon. It's a dirty world. The training to cook mutton will open doors for numerous sex workers who want to get rid of this age-old profession," said Juli. "There was no alternative means of survival. Now we have got it and want to exploit the opportunity to keep our future generation out of this dark and dingy world," she said.

Man of Champaran mutton fame imparts training

Gopal Kushwaha, the proprietor of 'Champaran Handi Mutton' fame, on Sunday started imparting training to 10 sex workers of the red light area of Muzaffarpur. He provided one month's raw material and utensils free of cost for preparing mutton

Chanda said she would provide online service to customers of 'Champaran handi mutton' in the town. "Majority of girls and women of our age are looking for an alternative means of survival. They want to liberate themselves from this dirty trade," she said.

The novel initiative of Kushwaha has received appreciation not only from officials but also from social workers. Kushwaha said he has assured the sex workers and their children to help opening shops in Muzaffarpur town or elsewhere they wish.

Naseema Khatoon, founder of NGO 'Parchum' working for uplift of sex workers, said Kushwaha had discussed the idea of providing training on 'Champaran Handi Mutton' to sex workers. "I assured him full cooperation. The day came on Sunday when the training programme for sex workers was launched," she said.

Naseema, daughter of a sex worker, is now a member of the National Human Rights Commission Advisory Group. She said she would request to Muzaffarpur district authority to provide shops to the sex workers along 'Marine Drive' (riverfront of the town) or some other locations.

She said Kushwaha's efforts will help women of redlight area to become self-reliant and not to depend on their traditional profession.

Chaturbhujsthan red light area has a population of about 1000. Majority of them are engaged in performing dance at cultural-wedding events and meeting customers.

"It's unfortunate that some women are still engaged in the profession, which dates backs to Mughal period," said Vivek Kumar, who is making a documentary on Kushwaha's initiative on changing the lifestyle of sex workers of Muzaffarpur.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	20	10	SNY	Los Angeles	29	15	SNY
Colombo	31	26	LR	Melbourne	15	5	SNY
Dhaka	30	25	LR	Moscow	7	0	LC
Dubai	35	28	SNY	New York	17	13	SNY
Houston	31	21	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	19	10	SNY	Toronto	13	7	LR
London	18	11	LR	Washington	14	11	SNY

KAMALA, TRUMP CRISSCROSS BATTLEGROUND STATES WITH 24 HRS LEFT

Political pundits believe that Pennsylvania with 19 electoral college votes and Michigan with 15 are now the ground zero and both are too close to call

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Kamala Harris and her Republican rival former president Donald Trump are leaving nothing to chance in the last 50 hours before closing of the polls, making a passionate appeal to their countrymen to support and send them to the White House.

"We will win," Vice President Harris told thousands of her cheering supporters in Wisconsin urging them it's time to turn a page and bring in a new generation of leadership in America.

She was campaigning in Wisconsin and North Carolina on Saturday. She plans to make closing arguments in Michigan, Georgia and Pennsylvania on Sunday and Monday.

Trump, 78, choose Virginia for campaigning on Saturday. Addressing thousands of his supporters in Salem, the former president promised to bring in a new era of peace and prosperity in the country. He continued to charge Harris of being a liberal Left radical.

Over the next two days, Trump has a hectic schedule in the battleground states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina. To win, a candidate needs 270 electoral college votes. According to websites, Harris is assured of 226 electoral votes and Trump of 219. While Harris needs 44 additional electoral college votes to reach the magic figure of 272, Trump requires 51.Both the candidates have multiple pathways to victory running through the seven battleground states of Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia.

Political pundits believe that Pennsylvania (with 19 electoral college votes) and Michigan (15 electoral college votes) are now the ground zero. Latest polls indicate that it's too close to call in both Michigan and Pennsylvania.

According to RealClearPolitics.Com, which tracks major opinion polls, Trump has a slender edge of 1.1 percentage points in the battleground states.

Trump and Harris are addressing multiple big rallies in the battleground states, as are their running mates Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Ohio Senator J D Vance.

Both the campaigns have deployed thousands of volunteers in all the battleground states who are knocking on doors, and urging Americans to go out and votes. Hundreds of Indian-Americans from either side have been campaigning in states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia.

In the last 50 hours, the two campaigns have flooded the television networks and local radio stations with ads, spending millions of dollars on it.

PTI

ASIA MATTERS

RAIL PROJECT FACES HEADWINDS

The Gemas-Johor Bahru electrified double-track rail project, which is expected to halve the journey time between Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru once it links up with the already up-and-running Padang Besar-Gemas line, has missed yet another deadline, *The Straits Times* reported. Initial plans to progressively extend the existing line – that begins at the Malaysia-Thailand border in Padang Besar and travels southwards through Gemas – have met headwinds in Johor's district of Segamat. It is slated to be the first of a new 11-stop stretch covering major districts.

SIX TO BE CHARGED FOR BANK OFFENCES

Six people will be charged today with giving a criminal syndicate access to their bank accounts, which were then used to move almost $6 million, *CNA* reported. The three men and three women, aged between 20 and 35, were arrested in June 2023. They are suspected to have been involved in a spate of banking-related malware incidents. Each of them purportedly gave up at least one bank account in exchange for monthly payments. The six suspects will be charged with various offences, including abetment of cheating, abetting unauthorised access to material.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO B'DESH SLASHED OVER DUES

DHAKA: ADANI has slashed cross-border electricity supply to Bangladesh by half due to some $850 million in unpaid bills, power officials said on Sunday, with Dhaka scrambling to boost production to stem blackouts. "We are trying to meet the gap by running other plants," Rezaul Karim, chairman of the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), said on Sunday. Adani's coal-fired Godda plant in Jharkhand state usually supplies between 7-10% of Bangladesh's baseload power demand of 13 GW. But Adani had warned Dhaka in September to settle its bills, which had surged to around $850 million. At the time, Adani called it an "unsustainable situation, where we are meeting not only our supply commitments but also those to our lenders and suppliers, despite rising receivables". There was no immediate comment from Adani on Sunday. "We are discussing the issue with them (Adani), and informed them that it is not possible to make the total payment in a single month," Karim said. "But we are trying to increase the payment size gradually". Karim said Bangladesh paid $97 million to Adani in October, which was "higher than the previous three months's payment". On Friday, Adani's Godda plant supplied 724 megawatts, against the installed capacity of 1,496 MW, with Bangladesh facing around 1,680 MW of load shedding. Bangladesh also imports 1,160 MW from Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura. Demand is usually lower in November, when itenters a relatively cooler period. AFP

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Public is hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property described below from its owners **1) Smt. SAJIDA SHAUKATH,** W/o Sri. Syed Shaukath Hussain, **2) Sri. SYED NUSRATH HUSSAIN** and **3) Sri. SYED ARAFATH HUSSAIN,** both S/o Sri. Syed Shaukath Hussain, all residing at No. A3-503, White House Apartment, Dinnur Main Road, R. T. Nagar, Bengaluru.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in, to or upon the schedule property and its sale may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and my client will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule property as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No. 30/2, (Earlier a part of Northern Portion of House List No. 2, Khata No. 101/1 and Assessment No. 312, New C.M.C. Khata bearing K.T. No. 263/30/2) PID No. 263/30/2, situated at Amruthahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and Bounded on the:

East by : Road;
West by : Private Property;
North by : Road;
South by : Part of the property bearing House List No. 2.

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS

Notice of 30 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 (6) & Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the **possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India (secured creditor),** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increments are also mentioned hereunder:

Date & Time of E Auction: 29.11.2024 from 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM (with 10 Minutes unlimited auto extensions).

BRANCH: Union Bank of India, Hindupur Branch (account now transferred to Stressed Asset Management Branch, 4th Floor, Andhra Bank building, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER, CO-APPLICANT AND GUARANTOR:-

1. Sri. Deepak Gupta, S/o. Suresh Chand Gupta, Ex-Managing Director, Door No.13-4, D-Block, Platinum City, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022 **(Borrower/Managing Director).**, **2. Sri Sudhir Kumar Hasija, S/o Gian Chand Hasija,** No.7, Wellington Street, Richmond Town, Bengaluru-560025 **(Borrower/ Additional Director). 3. Sri Satnarain Mittal,** D.No.A-08/21, Platinum City, Near HMT Layout, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022 **(Borrower/Guarantor/Director).**, **4. Sri Anil Kumar Solanki alias Anil Solanki, S/o. Chandra Bhan Solanki,** Flat No.1, 2nd Floor, Darious Residency, Miramar, Panjim, Goa-403001 **(Guarantor/Director).**, **5. Sri Anurag Garg, S/o. Devender Kumar Garg,** R/o 36, Prem Vihar, Jansath Road, Muzaffapur, Uttar Pradesh-215001 **(Guarantor/ Director).**, **6. Sri Mukesh Kumar Bansal, S/o. Munni Prakash Bansal,** R/o 72/310, Agrasain Vihar, Muzaffarpur, Uttar Pradesh-215001 **(Guarantor/Director).**, **7. Sri Balesh Kumar Goel, S/o. Late Jagan Nath Prasad,** R/o 72/33, Radhakant Agrasain Vihar, Jansath Road, Muzaffarpur, Uttar Pradesh-215001 **(Guarantor/Director). 8. Mrs.Rajesh Solanki, W/o. Anil Kumar Solanki alias Anil Solanki,** Flat No.1, 2nd Floor, Darious Residency, Miramar, Panjim, Goa-403001 **(Guarantor/Mortgagor). 9. Mrs. Sangeetha Mittal, W/o Satnarain Mittal,** D.No.A-08/21, Platinum City, Near HMT Layout, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022 **(Guarantor/Mortgagor).**

Note: M/s Kalptaru Steel Rolling Mills Ltd. (Borrower & Mortgagor) was resolved under CIRP and the company was taken over by M/s. Shiva Ferric Private Limited.

Demand Notice dated: 01.07.2013 **Possession Notice Dated: 20.11.2013**

The secured debt for the recovery of which the immovable secured asset is to be sold: Rs.124,27,11,922.92 (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Four Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Two and Ninety Two Paisa Only) as on 30.09.2024 with subsequent interest, charges and costs thereon. (As per demand notice dated 01.07.2013, the outstanding dues is Rs.38,90,22,046.83 (Rupees Thirty Eight Crores Ninety Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand forty six and paise Eighty Three Only) as on 30-06-2013 plus further interest, costs and charges).

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: Property 1: Office premises No.12 having an area of 24.80 sq. Mtrs, along with mazanine floor of 7.04 Sq. Mtrs along with open terrace area of 22.32 Sq.Mtrs in 4 th floor of Navelcar Trade centre together with undivided right ,title and interest to 19.84 upon 2610 of the amalgamated Plots bearing chalta No 223 to 242 of PT Sheet 36 of City Survey Panaji situated along the M.G. Road within the limits of City Corporation of Panaji, Taluka Tiswandi Registration Sub District I lhas ,District North Goa in the state Goa which is described under No. 1964 on Page 170 of Book B-23(old) and 2594(new in the land Registration Department ,Ilhas and described in Mantriz Predial Taluka Revenue Register under No. 721 to 722 and 688 (New) Survey under Chalta No 230 to 242 of PT Sheet No 36 of City Survey Panaji belonging to Mrs. Rajesh Solanki W/O Anil Kumar Solanki. **The said plot is bounded as under: Towards the East:** Chalta no 243 & 249 of P.T. Sheet 36, **Towards the West:** Chalta no 215 and 218 of P.T. Sheet 36, **Towards the North:** M G Road, **Towards the South:** Chalta no 271-A,271-B,272,3280,291 & 292of P.T. Sheet 36

GPS Coordinates: 15.29 58 54 73.49 35 72 ,

Reserve Price: Rs.35,64,000/- **EMD: Rs.3,56,400/-** **Bid Increment Amount: Rs.35,640/-**

The details of encumbrances, if any known to the Secured Creditor: Not known to Bank

Last date for Submission of EMD: On or before the commencement of e-Auction.

Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit the following sites:

The Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/ website **https://ebkray.in** on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders/ purchasers required to register through **https://ebkray.in (Buyer Registration - link provided in the home page of the website)** byusing their mobile number and valid email-id. The intending bidders/ purchasers further required to upload KYC documents and Bank Details. The intending bidders/ purchasers can be guided by the Buyer Manual provided in the home page of the website

Register on **https://ebkray.in** using mobile number and email ID.

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit Buyer Manual link provided in the home page of **https://ebkray.in**

For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & email ID support.ebkray@psballiance.com

Bidders are advised to go through the **website:https://ebkray.in and https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx** for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. Successful bidder will be intimated through e-mail after the closing of the e-Bidding Process.

Date & Time of E Auction: 29.11.2024 between 12.00 Noon to 05.00 PM (with 10 Minutes unlimited auto extensions).

Date: 30.10.2024 **Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorized Officer**
Place: Hyderabad **SAM Branch Hyderabad, Union Bank of India**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. EEE/BMWND/AEE-4/2024-25/4139-41 Dt: 29.10.2024

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

KPTCL has constructed 220KV DC line on 220KV monopole towers with AAAC moose conductor for a distance of **7.821 kms** from 220/66KV KIADB Hardware park station to newly erected 220KV DC cable termination tower (CTT) in Balathimmanahalli near Jonnahalli gate and has laid 220KV, 1200 sq.mm DC UG cable from newly erected 220KV DC CTT to newly established 220/66/11KV KIADB Haraluru Muddenahalli station for a distance of **7.965 km** in Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk & Channarayapattana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk which will be energized **on or after 05.11.2024.**

220KV UG Cable route: From newly established 220/66/11KV KIADB Haraluru Muddenahalli station, right side of KIADB Industrial area road, right side in service road of NH-4 (Hosakote-Devanahalli), crossing towards Budigere road, right side in Devanahalli-Budigere road all along to newly erected 220KV DC CTT near Jonnahalli gate.

220KV Overhead line route: From newly erected 220KV DC CTT in Balathimmanahalli (near Jonnahalli gate), in Devanahalli-Budigere road along the road median of Battamaranahalli up to Kondenahalli gate (GAIL Gas CNG), along the median of KIADB area in Arebannimangala, towards road side of Mahadeva Kodigehalli in KIADB area limits to 220/66KV KIADB Hardware park station.

Hence the General public/PWD/KIADB/Any public or State Government/Private Organizations are hereby informed to keep away from the above said route and not to undertake any excavation in the above mentioned cable route.

Any untoward incidents or accidents which may occur during the course of excavation/executing the work by any agency along the above said route without following guidelines, **the KPTCL will not be held responsible** and damage charges for the KPTCL assets shall be bourne by the executing body/ agency only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Elec.,
BMWND, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

FORMAT C-2

(For Political Party to Publish in Website, Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about Criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party : **INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY**

* Name of Election : **185-CHANNAPATNA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY BYE-ELECTION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON 13-11-2024**

Name of State/~~UT~~ : **KARNATAKA**

1	2	3	4		5	
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	Pending criminal cases		Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1	YOGEESHWARA.C.P	185-CHANNAPATNA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY BYE-ELECTION	All 1 to 9 (Nine) cases are pending before 42nd Addl Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Special MP/MLA Court). 10th case is in 39th Addl CMM Court, Bangalore. 1. 30756/2021 2. 30757/2021 3. 30750/2021 4. 30786/2021 5. 30788/2021 6. 30789/2021 7. 30790/2021 8. 30793/2021 9. 30796/2021 10. CC17977/18 No, Charges has not been framed yet.	1. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC Offence u/s 266G R/W 628 of Companies Act 1956. 2. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC Offence u/s 240(3) of Companies Act 1956. 3. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC Offence punishable u/s 177, 416, 419 & 420 IPC 4. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 628 of Companies Act 1956. 5. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 415, 420, 120A & 120B IPC 6. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 404, 405, 409, 463, 464, 468, 120A, 120B IPC 7. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 403, 405, 409, 418, 120A, 120B IPC 8. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 403, 405, 406 & 409 IPC 9. Complaint u/s 200 CRPC R/W Sec. 403 & 409 IPC 10. Section 420 of IPC All above 9 cases have been filed by SFIO, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi. Case No. 10 filed by State of Karnataka represented by Vidhana Soudha P.S.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

* In the case of election to Council of states or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Note: (i) The above information shall be published state wise for each State/UT.
(ii) The matter in newspapers should be published in font size of at least 12.

KARNATAKA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE No. 14, Queens Road, Bangalore - 560 052.

(D.K. SHIVAKUMAR)
President, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Bangalore

Know about free health insurance for citizens above 70 years

With no restriction on income, Ayushman Vaya Vandana card is universal and senior citizens can receive free treatment in hospitals, both public and private

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

NOW, every senior citizen who is above 70 years will be eligible for a Ayushman Vaya Vandana (AVV) Card. PM Narendra Modi last week launched the much-awaited Ayushman Bharat health insurance for senior citizens aged 70 and above.

This is an expansion of health coverage under AB PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), and under this scheme, these senior citizens are eligible for free medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh.

What are its benefits

Aayush Dubey, Co-Founder and Head of Research, Beshak.org, lists out following benefits:

- **Free hospital treatment:** This card allows senior citizens aged 70+ years to access cashless hospitalisation, ensuring they receive essential medical care without the financial strain.
- **Universal eligibility:** Regardless of income level, any senior citizen aged 70 years and above is eligible for this benefit. It's open to all, whether from low, middle, or upper-income backgrounds.
- **Shared family coverage:** In cases where multiple elderly individuals reside in the same household, the coverage limit of ₹5 lakh can be utilised by all qualifying members.
- **Coverage:** Ayushman Bharat scheme covers around 1,929 medical procedures, encompassing all costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, physician fees, pre- and post-hospitalisation, such as diagnostics and medications, etc.

This ensures seniors receive complete and uninterrupted care during their treatment journey.

Those senior citizens who are already benefiting from other public health insurance schemes like the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), or Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) have the option to either continue with their current scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

As of September 29, 2024, over 35 crore Ayushman cards have been created under AB PM-JAY. Beneficiaries can begin accessing treatment from the first day of enrolment and there is no waiting period for any disease or treatment.

How to enroll?

One can download Ayushman app by going to Google Play Store. Login as beneficiary, enter captcha, mobile number and do authentication, and then click to enroll senior citizens. According to National Health Authority, one can enter their Aadhaar to check if it already exists, click for new enrollment, do e-KYC, enter the mobile and Aadhaar OTP for verification, capture photo and fill all additional information, add family members of age 70 or above, after that one can download Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card.

How useful is AVV card ?

Experts say since getting personal health insurance can be challenging due to health and age -related reasons, getting this AVV card will be a significant one for seniors.

"It provides essential healthcare services to those who may lack a personal health insurance policy. For those with existing health insurance coverage, the AVV card can work as a supplementary benefit, helping cover additional expenses," Dubey adds.

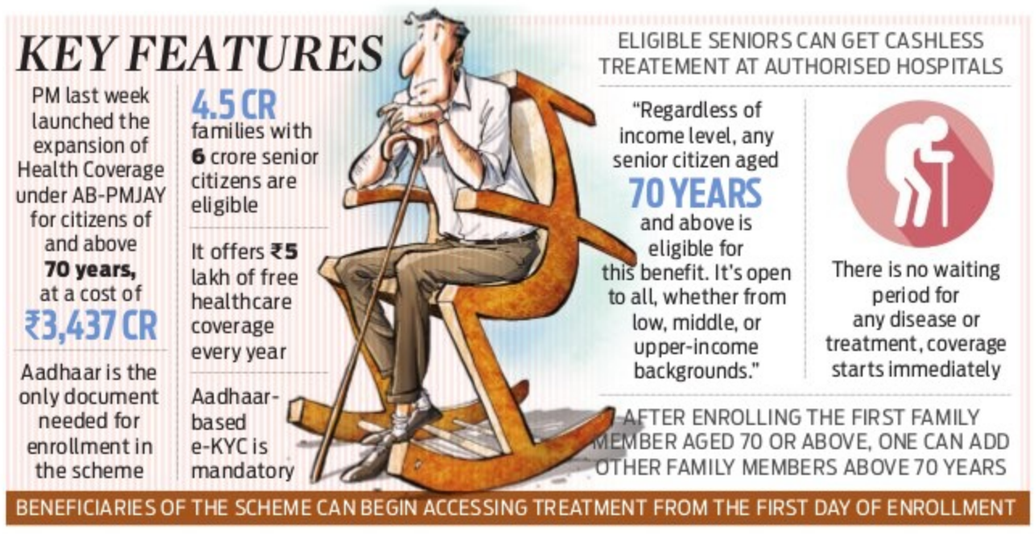
However, there are certain limitations and one should keep that in mind. According to Dubey, there are limitations including:

- **Restricted hospital network:** Treatment with the AVV card is limited to empanelled hospitals, which may not offer the same accessibility or facilities as the broader network in personal health insurance plans.
- **Limited control over policy terms:** Since government policies & terms may change over time, relying solely on the AVV card might not be sufficient for long-term, personalised healthcare needs.

A personal health insurance plan provides comprehensive protection that's more customisable and stable.

The health insurance market is growing rapidly in India. Market research and consulting company Grand View Research says the market is expected to expand at a CAGR of 11.55% from 2023 to 2030.

The market size was valued at $12.86 billion in 2022. This cover to senior citizens will help 4.5 crore families and 6 crore senior citizens are eligible.


KEY FEATURES
PM last week launched the expansion of Health Coverage under AB-PMJAY for citizens of and above 70 years, at a cost of ₹3,437 CR
4.5 CR families with 6 crore senior citizens are eligible
It offers ₹5 lakh of free healthcare coverage every year
Aadhaar is the only document needed for enrollment in the scheme
Aadhaar-based e-KYC is mandatory
ELIGIBLE SENIORS CAN GET CASHLESS TREATEMENT AT AUTHORISED HOSPITALS
"Regardless of income level, any senior citizen aged 70 YEARS and above is eligible for this benefit. It's open to all, whether from low, middle, or upper-income backgrounds."
There is no waiting period for any disease or treatment, coverage starts immediately
AFTER ENROLLING THE FIRST FAMILY MEMBER AGED 70 OR ABOVE, ONE CAN ADD OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ABOVE 70 YEARS
BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME CAN BEGIN ACCESSING TREATMENT FROM THE FIRST DAY OF ENROLLMENT

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH GOOD FINANCIAL HABITS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

ONE way to interpret the battle between the 'good' and the 'evil' is within. As you celebrate the victory of the good over the evil, you must nurture good habits. There are so many things that you can take note of as you review the year gone by. A lot of your future wealth depends on your money habits today. We have often discussed the influence of emotional and behavioural issues. But there are simple things to learn that can go a long way. A fundamental habit is to save first, invest, and spend whatever is left.

It is essential to understand that your money situation differs from anyone else's. That is the first step towards inculcating good habits. The 'personal' in 'personal finance' means that when you are dealing with money, you are unique. If you want, you can keep emotions out of financial matters.

When you bring rationality into the picture, you will see that most money problems have a solution. With prudent budgeting, you can manage your income, investments and expenditures effortlessly. If you have problems with the complexity of the knowledge about money, you will realise that you do not have to be an expert to manage personal finances.

In the book 'The Psychology of Money', author Morgan Housel emphasises the aspects of human emotions and money. He argues that financial decisions in the real world are far more complicated than the textbooks. It is difficult to separate your emotions from your decision-making regarding money matters.

However, good financial habits can help you overcome the hurdle of learning complicated financial knowledge. Solid financial knowledge can do you no wrong. But, if you are new to investing and uninterested in learning about finance, you must focus on your actions. Those are things you can control.

Many of you already do that by hanging on to tangible assets like real estate and gold. For a long time, it has been an issue of debate whether gold is an investment. The long-term returns on gold have been similar to those in the Sensex or Nifty over 20-year phases. That is a significant achievement for the precious metal as the global consumer and institutional demand remains strong. It is a natural hedge you use against inflation. That has rewarded Indian households estimated to have nearly 27,000 tonnes of the yellow metal. The value of that gold is nearly $ 3 trillion at current prices. It is more than half the value of all shares traded on the Bombay Stock Exchange or the National Stock Exchange. Despite all that household hoarding, it is not a liquid investment. It is an asset with a lot of emotions attached. Most of you like to keep that gold in the form of jewellery that you sell or mortgage only in case of an emergency. Households are seen using gold for short-term loans. The rise of companies that offer only gold loans and their stock market success is a testimony to that behaviour.

The dramatic surge in gold prices could also be due to the geopolitical risk due to international wars. At the same time, equity asset prices are record-high in many markets despite relatively slow growth.

There is a perception of a risk of a sharp fall eventually. Fear is pushing many towards gold. Despite similar returns over 20-year phases, the price trajectory is not similar for gold and shares. It may be a good idea to split your investments into equity assets and gold simply. The only thing you need to learn is to find a professional advisor to help you make an asset allocation. That does not require you to know about finance. Give your money the time to grow and invest regularly.

When you have the money, you look for assets at a relatively low price to invest your savings. To get anywhere, you need savings. You need to get into a habit of creating a pool of savings every month to fuel your investment habits. Unless you succeed in doing that, the discussion over investments and complexities related to them is meaningless.

MONEY-WISE

10 BAD FINANCIAL HABITS THAT KEEP YOU POOR

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

WHAT are the BAD FINANCIAL HABITS that keep you poor. Well not exactly poor, it does not allow you to break out of being middle class. Let me look at a few of the things that I have observed:

- Having no financial goals – when there is no goal for which you are saving or investing, chances are you will not save or invest! It is really important to have goals – whether in health or wealth. The rich and those really wanting to reach there have clear goals.
- Paying yourself last – when you earn money on a regular basis (mostly monthly), if you first spend on your needs and luxuries, you will never have enough investments. The rich stick to the principle of 'Pay yourself first' – first pay and allocate the money for all your goals, and thus you will have savings.
- Getting comfortable with debt – borrowing to pay for sudden expenses – a broken windshield, or an inflated electricity bill or a doctor's bills. Once you get comfortable with debt you don't worry about borrowing. When you are told only the instalments the loan looks small. Such people buy everything in instalments – EMI for travel, and even expensive phones! The interest paid to the banks keeps you poor!
- Not having Emergency funds – when they need some money, they just dip into the bank account and take a loan! This leads to borrowing and they feel justified when they have, say a medical emergency.
- Not having a hang of one's expenses, income, assets, liabilities. When you do not have goals (destination), you have no path and have no accounting. This also means they have no accountability to themselves. This really keeps you poor. The rich track their assets, liabilities, income and expenses! Most importantly they monitor their Net Worth on a regular basis.
- Habits which I see as 'expensive' – planning last minute trips and paying top dollar for air tickets, staying in expensive hotels when on vacation, using private transport for every move! They don't bother much about calculating how expensive it is to travel by private transport!
- Regularly eating out, buying branded goods, using expensive modes of transport, - these are luxuries. Travel is a necessity but travel in luxury is keeping you poor.
- Poor asset allocation! – most of the money (if any) would be lying in the bank without being invested, in this case there is no investment made or it is made at a much later date – which is postponed indefinitely.
- Poor understanding of taxation – when you do not know that capital gains is taxed at a lower rate than regular income! This is for people who have some money. The real rich people understand investing, and taxation -as applicable to your earned income and investment income.
- Not understanding basic Personal Finance – goals, budgets, monitoring, renting vs buying, buying too big a house or a luxury car, are all crippling actions which keep you poor!

Gold poised for 15-18% returns in Samvat 2081, over safe-haven demand

PTI @ New Delhi

GOLD is expected to deliver a stellar 15-18% return in Samvat 2081, driven by positive economic factors and safe-haven demand, analysts said.

Samvat 2081 marks an important period for Indian investors as it signals the start of a new financial year in the Hindu calendar, coinciding with the auspicious festival of Diwali. Gold and silver have delivered a robust performance in Samvat 2080, and the outlook remains positive for Samvat 2081, though investors may see moderate gains amid possible shifts in global market factors, they added.

"The outlook for gold in Samvat 2081 remains positive. We expect a base performance of 10% with potential for 15-18% gains if the import duty cut continues to drive buying momentum." "However, any hike in import duties could push gold's performance beyond a 15%. A stable interest rate environment could also support a gradual upward trend," Jateen Trivedi, Vice President of Research for Commodities and Currency at LKP Securities, said. Gold has outperformed many asset classes in Samvat 2080, delivering over 30% returns compared to 25% from Nifty.

This strong performance was fuelled by geopolitical tensions and escalating conflicts worldwide, along with the interest rate cycle turning in major economies, making gold a reliable safe-haven investment, Trivedi said, explaining that the precious metal's status as a secure investment strengthened amid a volatile economic landscape.

Geopolitical conflicts, shifts in monetary policy of global economies, and industrial demand have boosted the yellow metal to touch record highs of ₹82,400 per 10 gram in the national capital on Thursday.

Indians spending more on premium shoes: ASICS head

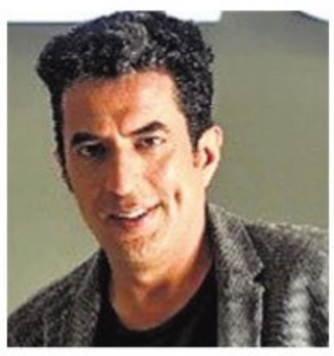
ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIANS are spending more on shoes with the average price point increasing 10-15% in the last one year, said Rajat Khurana, Managing Director, ASICS India and South Asia.

The Japanese sportswear brand, which competes with Adidas and Nike, has 111 outlets across the country and expects this number to go up to 200 by 2026.

"The average price point of our shoes when I compare it with 2023 has increased by 10-15% despite no major uptick in retail prices. It is consumers who are shifting to the premium segment," Khurana told TNIE.

Bullish on India, ASICS expects its sales here to grow by 26-27% in 2024 and then at a CAGR of 30% over the next 3 years. "The global management believes in India, because of its growing population, high disposable income and growing culture for fitness," Khurana, adding it is a very promising market.



The MD also informed that ASICS has now achieved 30% local sourcing norms and as per existing FDI norms they can now open company-owned outlets here. The first of such outlets will come in the next 24 months.

"We plan to take localisation to 35-40% in the next 2-3 years. This 30% of the production caters to the low to the medium price point and our more premium products are still imported. We hope India will soon get the technology to produce high-end shoes," said Khurana.

He added that they won't be increasing their prices in tandem with an expected GST rate hike. The Group of Ministers (GoM) recently proposed to increase the GST rate on shoes costing over ₹15,000 from 18% to 28%.

"If the proposal is implemented, we will take some hit and not pass all the price hikes to the consumers. Our lowest price point is ₹4,999 and goes as high as ₹21,999," he said.

On demand coming from tier 2 and tier 3 cities, Khurana said that he could have never imagined 9 years back getting such a strong demand beyond metro cities. About 60% of ASICS stores opened in the last one year are in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

Khurana also said that performance-oriented running shoes are growing at a faster pace than the industry and account for 55% of their total sales.

The company recently reintroduced the SportStyle Skyhand OG sneakers after a gap of 30 years to increase its presence in the sneaker segment.

TGI Fridays India ops unlikely to get impacted by US bankruptcy proceedings

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EVEN as TGI Fridays Inc has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the US, its India operations may remain unaffected. The US-based company in a press statement has said that TGI Fridays has franchised the brand to 56 franchisees in 41 countries, and all these franchise locations, both domestic and international, are independently owned and therefore not included in TGI Fridays Inc's Chapter 11 process.

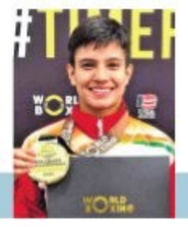
They are open and serving customers as usual, reiterated the company in a press statement.

"To ensure continuity of service to franchisees, TGI Fridays Franchisor, LLC has negotiated a Transition Services Agreement with – and provided interim funding to – TGI Fridays Inc to maintain support services for franchisees while TGI Fridays Franchisor, LLC works to implement a new long-term support structure," the company said. On Saturday, it filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code in the Northern District of Texas. According to a statement issued by the company, it expects to use the time and legal protections made available through the Chapter 11 restructuring process to allow the company to explore strategic alternatives in order to ensure the long-term viability of the brand.

The Company has secured a commitment for debtor-in-possession financing to support operations while proceeding through the Chapter 11 process.

It also filed motions with the Bankruptcy Court that, when approved, will allow the company to, among other things, continue its customer programs in the normal course. These motions are typical of the Chapter 11 process and are expected to be heard approved in the first days of the case.

Boxers Parthavi, Vanshika & Hemant bag gold



Parthavi Grewal, Vanshika Goswami & Hemant Sangwan punched their way to gold as Indian boxers made a strong impression, clinching a haul of 17 medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. It was the female boxers who stole the show with as many as 10 standing on the podium at the age group event.

Historic defeat: Rohit & Co lose 0-3, first-ever clean sweep by a visiting team on Indian soil in a Test series comprising three or more matches

MUMBAI MASSACRE

GOMESH S @ Mumbai

GO high or go broke. It seems to be the theme of Indian cricket at the moment. It looks spectacular when things go your way — as it did in Kanpur. But when it doesn't, it looked exactly like what happened on the hot Sunday morning at the Wankhede Stadium. Chasing 147, India were bundled out for 121 to lose the final Test by 25 runs and the series 0-3. A clean sweep at home for the first time since 1999-2000. Losing all three matches of a Test series at home for the first time ever.

Batting on this pitch was always going to be tricky. However, Indian batters pushed the panic button and crumbled, once again, getting reduced to 29/5 in 7.1 overs. Scratch that, India pulled themselves down to that with skipper Rohit Sharma leading the way.

The captain, who had been in poor form since the home season began in Chennai, continued to do what he had been trying. He tried to take everything that came his way. Whether it was charging at Matt Henry, who had been extracting extra bounce off the surface and dismissed Sharma in the first innings, or going for the sweep against Ajaz Patel, Sharma seemed like he was in a hurry. The first mistimed pull cleared mid-on and got him a boundary, but the second one found Glenn Phillips at mid-wicket. Another failure for Sharma, and it was just the beginning.

Shubman Gill had a brain fade in the next over, leaving an arm ball from Patel that crashed into the stumps. Viral Kohli edged one that turned to first slip, extending his lean patch since coming back to the Test team in September. Yashasvi Jaiswal was soon trapped on pads by an arm ball from Phillips and India were four down for just 28 on board.

At this point, it looked like there was a completion for the worst dismissal between Sharma and Gill, but then Sarfaraz Khan happened. Trying to take on Patel with a hard sweep seeing a low full toss, Khan hit it straight into the hands of square leg fielder. Half the side back in the pavilion with 29 runs on board in just 7.1 overs. To put it into context, India have not lost their first five wickets in less than 50 balls before in this century.

Putting your foot down and grinding it out was not going to work on this surface and they had to take risks. But they had to be calculative as Rishabh Pant and Gill were in the first innings and Will Young has been in both. However, what India's top-order did had little to do with it. They fell flat on their face, once again, leaving it to Pant to pull off a miracle.

The keeper-batter, since coming back, has picked up from where he left two years ago. This innings was not going to be any different. Having watched two collapses in this match already, Pant went into his zone. Anything he had a chance at, Pant would pick the field and go for his shots. So much so that his counterattack left Patel reeling. His lines and lengths were thrown off and he wasn't able to consistently hit the same line and length.

First with Ravindra Jadeja and then with Washington Sundar, Pant built partnerships and rescued India yet again, taking them past 100. Another fifty, his third since September along with a hundred, They needed less than 40 runs and probably had two of their best middle-order bats this series who looked set to take India home.

And then, something happened. Pant tried to work Patel down the leg, but in the process the ball lobbed off the pad to the keeper. Black Caps reviewed, and it seemed like the bat was brushing the pads right about the time he came in contact with the ball, but there was no spike as the ball deflected. The third umpire, Paul Reiffel, overturned the on-field decision much to the displeasure of Pant and the packed Wankhede crowd. Pant (64) took the long walk back, possibly the slowest one of his career.

New Zealand believed. They were on the cusp of doing something no one ever has — clean sweep India in a home Test series that had three matches or more.

With Patel and Phillips hitting the right lengths and not trying anything extra, R Ashwin and Washington were unable to read them missing a lot. Ashwin eventually gave in and went for a reverse sweep only to be caught by the keeper off Phillips. The all-rounder cleaned up Akash Deep on the very next ball. Nine down and still needing 26 to win, it really was going to be a miracle for the hosts to chase it with Washington and Mohammed Siraj in the middle.

In the end, all it took was two balls as Patel cleaned up Washington and India to hand New Zealand a 3-0 win. A loss that no one saw coming three weeks ago. A series that will be etched in the memories for a very very long time.

Shubman Gill's dismissal summed up most of the Indian batters' show at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday | PTI

New Zealand 1st Innings: 235. India 1st Innings: 263. New Zealand 2nd innings: (o/n 171/9) Patel c Akash Deep b Jadeja 8, O'Rourke n.o 2. **Extras** 17: **Total:** (all out in 45.5 ovs) 174. **FoW:** 1-2, 2-39, 3-44, 4-94, 5-100, 6-131, 7-148, 8-150, 9-171, 10-174.

SCOREBOARD

Bowling: Akash Deep 5-0-10-1, Washington 10-0-30-1, Ashwin 17-1-63-3, Jadeja 13.5-3-55-5. **India 2nd Innings:** Jaiswal lbw Phillips 5, Rohit c Phillips b Henry 11, Gill b Patel 1, Virat c Mitchell b Patel 1, Pant c Blundell b Patel 64, Sarfaraz c Ravindra b Patel 1, Jadeja c Young b Patel 6, Washington b Patel 12, Ashwin c Blundell b Phillips 8, Akash Deep b Phillips 0, Siraj n.o 0. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** (All out in 29.1 ovs) 121. **FoW:** 1-13, 2-16, 3-18, 4-28, 5-29, 6-71, 7-106, 8-121, 9-121, 10-121. **Bowling:** Henry 3-0-10-1, Patel 14.1-1-57-6, Phillips 12-0-42-3.

WTC POINTS TABLE

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	PCT
1	Australia	12	8	3	1	90	62.50
2	India	14	8	5	1	98	58.33
3	Sri Lanka	9	5	4	0	60	55.56
4	New Zealand	11	6	5	0	72	54.55
5	South Africa	8	4	3	1	52	54.17
6	England	19	9	9	1	93	40.79
7	Pakistan	10	4	6	0	40	33.33
8	Bangladesh	10	3	7	0	33	27.50
9	West Indies	9	1	6	2	20	18.52

Wasn't at my best as batter and captain: Rohit after series loss

GOMESH S @ Mumbai

FROM ending the ICC trophy drought in June to becoming the first captain from India to lose three consecutive Tests at home, Rohit Sharma has had a rollercoaster of a season so far. After the defeat against New Zealand in Mumbai, which completed the 3-0 clean sweep (first-ever in the history of Indian cricket), Sharma took responsibility for the loss and admitted he hadn't been at his best which cost the team dearly. While he is not sure of playing the first Test against Australia in Perth, Sharma wants the team to focus on what lies ahead and is hopeful that the team can replicate a similar kind of performance from their last trip Down Under. Excerpts:

• On shot selection of batters

It wasn't up to the mark, starting from me. But the only thing I would say is that when you are chasing a target like that, you want to try and put the pressure on the bowlers. You can't allow bowlers to bowl on one particular slot. You have to try and do something about it. I played a bad shot, yes, but I don't regret it because that (the pull) has given me a lot of success in the past so I will continue to do that. Every now and then, I will reflect on what I need to do as a batter. But I accept it. We were just not good enough with the bat. We didn't apply ourselves. There were a lot of mistakes that were made.

• On his captaincy

I made a decision about batting first on that Bangalore pitch, which was not right. I made certain tactical errors also. Those decisions didn't go my way. You obviously take chances with those decisions. Sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't. And this time around it didn't come off. I was not at my best (in terms of leadership) and probably cost us the series as well.

• On his & Kohli's form

Obviously, it's a cause for concern without a doubt. If the batters are not performing, that is a cause for concern. But what's done is done now. As a player, as a captain, as the team, we all have to look forward and see how we can correct what we didn't manage to achieve here. There is a good opportunity for us to go and do something really special in Australia. Yes, without a doubt, we do understand the importance of this series. But just right now, it's just trying to understand what we didn't do right, and what we need to do better as a team.

• On preps for Oz tour

That's going to be very, very challenging (changing mindset from conditions in Mumbai and Perth). We do talk a lot about the game and all of that, but sitting with every individual and telling them what needs to be done or how you need to get your mindset right is something that is going to be challenging for us because they come up with a certain mindset, certain thinking about their own game. It has given them success in the past. But, we all understand that Australia is going to be a different ballgame. But for all the young players who haven't been there before us, it will be important to create an environment where they feel comfortable and don't get intimidated by where they're playing and who they're playing against. They all are quite smart about their plans. So, I expect them to come really, really good in Australia as well. There's too much expectation from our team but we want to try and keep things very simple and focus on what needs to be done on that particular day.

• On forgoing practice ties

Rather than a practice match, we planned a match simulation kind of a thing with India A. We are travelling with a squad of 19 players and it was only three days that were allotted to us. I don't know how much workload we can get done in those three days in terms of getting everyone prepared. The team management feels that we'd rather have a match simulation where the batters can spend more time in the middle and then the bowlers can also bowl a lot of balls. That is something that we, as a team, feel more comfortable doing rather than playing a practice game because game time is not a problem. All of us have been playing a lot of cricket. It's just about spending time in the middle. We want to maximise these three days, and I feel this is the best way to do it where the batters can have a lot of time in the middle and the bowlers at the same time can get their workload in terms of getting the number of balls bowled in the middle.

'NOT SURE OF PLAYING 1st TEST VS OZ IN PERTH'

GOMESH S @ Mumbai

ROHIT Sharma might miss the first Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy, which is scheduled to be played in Perth from November 22. Addressing the media after the 0-3 loss on Sunday, Rohit said that he is not sure if he will be there in Perth for the first Test. "Right now I am not too sure whether I will be going, but let's see. Fingers crossed," said the India captain, when asked about speculations of him missing the Test for personal reasons. As things stand, nothing is certain but if Sharma misses out, his deputy Jasprit Bumrah could, in all likelihood, lead the Test team against Pat Cummins' Australia. While it would make for an exciting watch to see two fast bowlers lead the respective sides at Perth — one of the fastest ground in the world — it could leave a massive hole in the Indian top-order. The last and only time Bumrah led India in a Test match was during the postponed one-off Test again England which they lost. To qualify for the World Test Championship final, they will have to beat Australia 4-0 in the five-match series.

India A lose to Australia after ball-change row

AGENCIES @ Mackay

INDIA A wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan was embroiled in a ball-change controversy, facing accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" during their seven-wicket defeat to Australia A on the final day of the first 'Unofficial Test' here on Sunday.

Resuming at the overnight score of 139 for 3 while chasing 225, skipper Nathan McSweeney (88) and Beau Webster (61) remained unbeaten, stitching unconquered 141 runs for the fourth wicket to ensure the comfortable win for the hosts. However even before play began, a group of Indian players were involved in a heated exchange with umpire Shawn Craig after the change of ball at the start of day four. The umpire was heard saying it had been replaced because of scratches with Kishan terming the decision to change the ball as "stupid".

Umpire Craig was heard in stump microphone explaining his decision to change the ball :"Scratch it, we change the ball...no more discussion, let's play." Kishan retorted: "So we are going to play with this ball — that's a very stupid decision." To which Craig responded: "Excuse me, you'll be on report for dissent. That's inappropriate behaviour. Because of your actions we changed the ball." However, Cricket Australia later issued a statement, saying Kishan will not be charged with dissent after match officials clarified the ball was changed "due to deterioration".

BRIEF SCORES
India A 107 & 312 **lost to** Australia A 195 & 226/3 (Nathan McSweeney 88 n.o, Beau Webster 61 n.o).

EXPRESS READ

Zverev beats Humbert to win Paris Masters

PARIS: Germany's Alexander Zverev won the Paris Masters on Sunday by defeating home hope Ugo Humbert 6-2, 6-2. Zverev, 27, now boasts seven ATP 1000-level titles over the course of his career, following two wins in Rome and Madrid, as well as victories in Montreal and Cincinnati. It was a happy return to Paris for Zverev, after he lost the French Open final to Carlos Alcaraz in June.

Malvika finishes runner-up at Hylo Open

SAARBRUECKEN (GERMANY): Malvika Bansod's impressive run at the Hylo Open Super 300 concluded with a runner-up finish, as she fell to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt 10-21, 15-21 in the final on Sunday. The 23-year-old southpaw, who claimed notable wins en route to her first Super 300 final, including a victory over fourth seed Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam, lost to Blichfeldt in 43 minutes.

Alaeddine magic yet again for NEUFC

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

ALAEDDINE Ajaraie simply can't stop scoring this season.

On Sunday, the Moroccon player scored for the seventh consecutive match in the Indian Super League in North-East United FC's 3-2 win over Odisha FC at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati. In the process, he surpassed Elano Blumer's earlier record (6 games). The forward scored a double, taking his tally to nine goals in seven outings this season. Thanks to him, NorthEast are placed fifth with 11 points.

Like most of their matches this season, the Highlanders started the game strong. They were energetic with their press and allowed no time on the ball for the Odisha FC backline, forcing them to resort to long balls. NorthEast United FC's attacking quartet of Parthib Gogoi, Nestor Albiach, Jithin MS and Ajaraie tormented the Odisha FC defenders with their marauding runs and exceptional understanding.

Alaeddine Ajaraie (R) scored a brace for NorthEast United FC on Sunday | ISL

Guillermo Fernandez opened his season's account to put the game beyond Odisha after Hugo Boumous had provided some hope for the visiting team with a goal in the 60th minute.

The last 10 minutes of the game saw Odisha throw the bodies forward and they deservedly pulled a goal back through Mauricio's exceptional freekick in the 83rd minute.

Despite Odisha's late surge, Juan Pedro Benali's men managed to hold their fort.

Blasters lose

Mumbai City recorded their first home win of the season. But they had to dig deep to earn the same as they recorded a 4-2 win over Kerala Blasters, who eventually finished with 10 men after a red card for Kwame Peprah in the 72nd minute.

Nikos Karelis was the standout for the Islanders as he scored a brace.

Verstappen triumphs in rain-hit Brazilian GP

AGENCIES @ Sao Paulo

RED Bull driver Max Verstappen took a major step toward securing his fourth straight F1 title by winning the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday, despite starting 17th, and increasing his lead over McLaren's Lando Norris with three more races remaining.

Verstappen overcame punishments before the race as well as the wet weather at Interlagos to earn his first victory since June, and his eighth Grand Prix win of the year. He also clocked the fastest lap of the race, which gives him an extra point.

The Dutchman increased his lead from 44 points to 62 over Norris, who started on pole position and finished sixth. The British driver could see the gap increase further as a post-race investigation still looms for him.

In one of the best drives of his career, Verstappen clocked the fastest lap of the race 17 times.

The two Alpine drivers, Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly, completed the podium. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who started the race with a long shot at the drivers' title, finished fifth.

Brazilian GP results (Top 5): 1. Verstappen (Red Bull); 2. Ocon (Alpine), 3. Gasly (Alpine), Russell (Mecedes), Leclerc (Ferrari).

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Man United held by Chelsea, Tottenham crush Villa

AGENCIES @ London

MOISES Caicedo's strike denied Manchester United victory on Sunday in their first Premier League game since they sacked Erik ten Hag.

Bruno Fernandes put United in front from the penalty spot 20 minutes from time at Old Trafford before Caicedo's quick reply made it 1-1 and took Chelsea into fourth. Earlier, Dominic Solanki scored twice as Tottenham blitzed Aston Villa in the second half, winning 4-1 to move just two points behind their rivals for a top-four finish. All four Spurs goals came in a storming second half after Morgan Rogers put the visitors ahead in the first period. Brennan Johnson pulled the rejuvenated home side level shortly after half-time.

Solanki then took centre stage, producing a delicate dinked finish to put Spurs ahead in the 75th minute before converting substitute Richarlison's cross four minutes later.

James Maddison added gloss by firing home a free kick deep into stoppage time.

Action from the match between Man United and Chelsea on Sunday | AP

Red-hot Barca

BARCELONA: Dani Olmo scored a double as Barcelona beat Espanyol 3-1 to maintain their sublime start to the La Liga season. Raphina was the other goalscorer for the Catalan giants. This was Barca's 11th win in 12 outings and they are currently atop with 33 points. Second-placed Real Madrid have 24, having played one less game.

The NMAT, conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), is an MBA entrance exam to be held from November 5 to December 20. Lovely Majumdar gains more insight from Gaurav Srivastava, Regional Director - APAC, Middle East & Africa, on the same

AND YOU CAN WITH NMAT!

IN today's market, Master of Business Administration's (MBA) popularity has grown manifold, and apart from the certain definite exams to go for, aspirants are now looking for alternatives with the ever-increasing competition. Gaurav Srivastava, Regional Director - APAC, Middle East & Africa at Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®), in an exclusive conversation with *EdexLive*, provides students with vital information they should be aware of.

Can you provide an overview of the NMAT exam, and how it has proved significant over the years for aspiring management students?

The NMAT by GMAC exam measures skills that a candidate needs to be successful in management programmes. It provides a comprehensive, fair, secure, and accurate assessment of the candidate's abilities, including problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and communication skills.

Each year, over 70,000 candidates take the NMAT exam, and the scores are accepted by over 80 Business Schools in India, the Philippines, Nigeria, South Africa, Hungary, and Morocco. Fresh undergraduates (UG), as well as working professionals, can write the NMAT by GMAC exam to gain admission into leading Business Schools for MBA and master's programmes.

Notable institutions include

- SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)
- K J Somaiya Institute of Management, Indian School of Business (ISB) for the AMPBA programme
- S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) for the GMP
- TA Pai Management Institute (TAPMI)
- XIM University, and
- Asian Institute of Philippines (AIM) to name a few

What resources or tools does GMAC provide to help candidates prepare effectively for the NMAT?

NMAT by GMAC offers various preparation tools and resources to help candidates prepare.

- There is a **six-week exclusive study plan available** on the NMAT website *https://www.mba.com/exams/nmat* that can help candidates prepare for the NMAT exam.
- **NMAT Official Guide 10th Edition** in paperback and Kindle version is available at Amazon. The official guide gives an extensive review of concepts and question types in each section, including tips and strategies. This edition has 734 questions for practice with answer keys and explanations.
- **NMAT Official Prep Exams:** One free Prep exam with two attempts and two paid prep exams with two attempts each help to not only familiarise candidates with the exam but also identify their weak areas. Prep exams follow the same structure as the actual NMAT exam. The score report provided for the Prep exam provides useful insights into the level of preparedness. Candidates should analyse their performance and focus on improving their weaknesses accordingly.

How do B-Schools in countries other than India view NMAT scores compared to other tests?

Many business schools prefer secure, standardised tests that have been widely studied and validated and NMAT helps them attract and assess candidates from their country or neighbouring countries to build a diverse cohort of students for their programmes.

Were there any changes that were introduced in the NMAT exam this year? Do you foresee any other improvements or enhancements?

Each year we rigorously conduct a learning exercise based on the previous year's delivery and make changes/enhancements to the NMAT exam to enhance the customer experience. In 2024, we introduced the following changes:

- This year exam delivery is ONLY at test centres in India. International exams will be delivered in an online proctored mode.
- Test centre span has been increased to 83 cities with 88 centres from 73 cities and 76 centres.
- This year we targeted two of the highest-volume contributors in customer care to improve customer experience.
- **Application form corrections:** Candidates reach out to customer care for data corrections post-submission of the application form, despite the preview and edit feature being available. This year we moved the submit button to the "Preview Screen" mandating a preview before submission, which resulted in a 6% drop in rectification requests, which, in the coming years with more education, can result in further reduction.
- Exam slot availability: In India, candidates can now view the availability of exam slots before making the payment or scheduling and this has resulted in a 72% drop in queries this year.
- The exam delivery window has been reduced from 66 to 45 days.
- Admit cards will be available for download seven days before the exam date from the candidate dashboard.

Gaurav Srivastava, GMAC

Any advice for candidates who are gearing up for the upcoming exam?

- Prepare a realistic study schedule based on actual time available, between one's personal and work commitments.
- Take the free NMAT Official Practice Exam, and understand the score analysis.
- Refresh your skills through the Official Guide, and review strategies to use for specific question types.
- Focus on the content areas and question types you need the most help with.
- Prepare the topics well and take the paid Practise Exams (if required) before taking your main attempt.

HOW THE PENALTY WORKS: Although there is no negative marking for wrong answers, time management is important to attempt all questions within each section as a penalty is levied. In case all questions are not answered within a section, test-takers could end up LOSING MORE, compared to the loss that they may incur due to incorrect responses.

MASTER EVERY SECTION

ESSENTIAL PREP TIPS FOR LANGUAGE, QUANT, AND LOGICAL REASONING SKILLS

General Preparation Tips

Mock Tests: Take full-length practice exams regularly.

Performance Analysis: Review results to identify and improve weak areas.

Balanced Study Plan: Allocate study time proportionally across all sections.

Language Skills Prep

FOCUS AREAS

- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary & Context
- Grammar and Syntax
- Error Detection

PREPARATION STRATEGIES

Reading Practice: Regularly read newspapers and articles.

Vocabulary Building: Learn new words daily using flashcards.

Grammar Review: Practice basic grammar rules and exercises.

Target Pace: ~47 seconds/question

Quantitative Skills Prep

FOCUS AREAS

- Number Systems & Properties
- Algebraic Equations
- Geometry and Mensuration
- Data Analysis and Interpretation

PREPARATION STRATEGIES:

Conceptual Clarity: Strengthen fundamentals in key Math areas.

Practice Problems: Solve diverse problems focusing on weak areas.

Shortcut Techniques: Learn and apply quick calculation methods.

Target Pace: ~86 seconds/question

Logical Reasoning Prep

FOCUS AREAS

- Logical Sequences & Patterns
- Critical Thinking Scenarios
- Visual Reasoning
- Statement-Conclusion Analysis

PREPARATION STRATEGIES

Pattern Recognition: Practice various puzzles and logical games.

Critical Analysis: Enhance reasoning through case studies.

Timed Drills: Improve speed and accuracy with timed practice.

Target Pace: ~66 seconds/question

Demystifying the structure

Understanding NMAT's structure and scoring system

OVERVIEW

Total Questions: 108 **Total Time:** 120 minutes **Section Order:** Candidates choose the order at the beginning of the exam.

SCORING: Section Score Range: 12 to 120 **Scaled and Total Score Range:** 36 to 360

EXAM SECTIONS AND TIMING

1. **LANGUAGE SKILLS: Questions:** 36 **Time Allocation:** 28 minutes
2. **QUANTITATIVE SKILLS: Questions:** 36 **Time Allocation:** 52 minutes
3. **LOGICAL REASONING: Questions:** 36 **Time Allocation:** 40 minutes

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

No Negative Marking: You can attempt all questions!

Adaptive Testing: Difficulty level is adjusted based on responses.

Equal Weightage: Each section carries equal importance.

Tailored testing experience

How NMAT's adaptive format works to assess your skills fairly

Adaptive testing accurately measures your skills by tailoring your experience to your individual ability level, ensuring all candidates are tested on a level playing field. During the exam, correct answers lead to slightly harder questions, and incorrect answers result in easier questions.

HOW IT WORKS

1. **Start Easy:** The first question is of medium difficulty.
2. **Adjust Difficulty:** Each subsequent question adapts to your previous answer.
3. **Dynamic Flow:** The exam continuously personalises the difficulty level.

Maximise Your Score

INSIGHTS AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL NMAT RETAKES

Retake Policy Overview

Total Attempts Allowed: 3 per testing year (initial attempt + 2 retakes)

Retake Waiting Period: Minimum of 15 days between attempts

Score Consideration: Only the highest score is sent to selected schools

Before You Decide To Retake

Evaluate Performance: Is your score significantly below target institute cut-offs?

Assess Preparedness: Can you improve with additional study and practice?

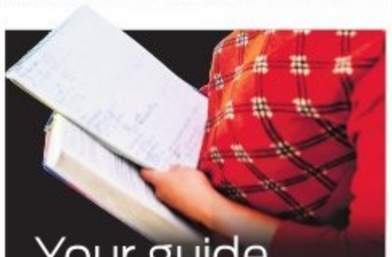
Consider Application Deadlines: Will retake scores be available before institute deadlines?

Improvement Strategies

Identify Weak Areas: Review score reports to pinpoint sections needing improvement

Targeted Practice: Focus on challenging topics with additional exercises

Time Management: Work on pacing to ensure all questions are attempted



Your guide through NMAT journey

Key dates, deadlines, and what to expect

Registration Window: August 1 to October 13

Scheduling Window: August 1 to October 21

Rescheduling: August 1 to December 17

Exam Delivery Window: November 5 to December 20

Retake Registration: November 6 to December 17

Admit Card Download: Available for seven days before scheduled exam date.

Score Card Download: Available within 48 hours after scheduled exam date.

Score Sending: Scores automatically sent to selected programmes.

College Selection Rounds: Ace the subsequent selection processes (group discussions; personal interviews) of your chosen MBA college.

Admission!: Receive and accept the admission offer and complete enrollment formalities by specified deadlines.

DIGITAL READINESS

Technical requirements for online NMAT

Pre-Exam Preparation: Complete the system compatibility check on the NMAT dashboard, verify ID requirements, and disable pop-up blockers.

On Exam Day: Log in 15 minutes early, have a government-issued photo ID, admit card, and confirmation email ready.

Environment Requirements: Quiet, well-lit room with a clear desk and no other individuals should be present.

— *Compiled by* Nicholas A Richards

When it comes to Language section

ELT RESOURCE PERSON AND EDUCATION COLUMNIST **DR ALBERT P'RAYAN** TALKS ABOUT HOW YOU CAN TACKLE THIS SECTION

THE Language Skills section assesses candidates' verbal abilities, reading comprehension, and other English language skills. This section contains 36 questions, and candidates have 28 minutes to complete it. Key topics include paragraph formation, sentence completion, error identification, and reading comprehension, with a focus on vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

To excel in this highly competitive exam, candidates can employ various strategies. Here are some effective tips for mastering the Language Skills section:

1 Practise regularly

Remember this golden maxim: "Practice makes perfect."

2 Learn words in chunks

Words often occur together in groups, known as 'word chunks.' A strong vocabulary is built by learning words in these chunks. Examples include: *fast food, quick lunch, heavy rain, strong wind, take a rest, and make a decision*. Constant exposure to English through listening, reading, speaking, and writing helps you use these chunks accurately.

3 Understand Grammar Concepts

Familiarity with grammar does not require memorising rules. Instead, focus on using correct forms in communication. Here are some essential concepts:

- **Subject-Verb Agreement:** A singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb. *For example: He/She eats, They/We eat, One of my friends is coming to meet me today.*
- **Consistency with Tenses:** Avoid mixing tenses within sentences. For example: *"He* **said** *he* **ate** *a pizza last night and it* **was** *tasty."*
- **Correct Article Usage:** Know when to use 'a' and 'an.' Use 'a' before words starting with a consonant sound and 'an' before words starting with a vowel sound. For example: *a one-rupee coin, an MP*.
- **Correct Prepositions:** Mastering prepositions comes with exposure to the language. Familiarise yourself with compound prepositions such as: *in relation to, with regard to, and in addition to*.
- **Proper Punctuation:** Correct punctuation is crucial for conveying a message. Missing punctuation, like a comma, can change a sentence's meaning. For instance: *Let's eat, Grandpa vs Let's eat Grandpa*.
- **Variety of Sentence Structures:** Familiarity with different sentence structures enhances comprehension and error identification in reading passages.
- **Parallel Structures:** Understanding parallelism improves clarity. For example: *John and Mary, along with their kids,* **visited** *us this morning,* **shared** *their travel experiences, and* **presented** *us with gifts; we* **watched** *a movie at a nearby cinema and* **enjoyed** *dinner at our favourite restaurant.*

By applying these strategies, candidates can enhance their performance in the Language Skills section of the NMAT and improve their overall chances of success.

ERROR IDENTIFICATION

Error identification questions assess test takers' knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. There are two types of questions:

1 Phrase Replacement

Choose which of the phrases (1), (2), (3), or (4) should replace the bold phrase in the following sentence to make it grammatically correct.

Example: Chomsky is doubtedly one of the most revered intellectuals in the world right now, whose views have shaped public discourse for the last six decades.

Options: 1. without doubt **2.** without a doubt **3.** with an iota of doubt **4.** surely undoubtedly

In this case, (2) is correct because "without a doubt" is the proper collocation.

word watch

2 Sentence Parts

The given sentence has four parts marked as A, B, C, and D. Identify the part with the error; if there is no error, mark 'D.'

Example: Noam Chomsky is an American professor (A)/ and public intellectual known on his work (B)/ in linguistics, political activism, and social criticism (C) / (D).

Here, (B) is the answer because the phrase "known on" has an error. The correct preposition is "for".

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04.11.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

River floods Italy

On this day in 1966, after two days of torrential downpour, the river Arno broke its banks and enveloped Florence, Italy with great force

ALL ABOUT ARNO

Arno is a quick-tempered river. Italy's failure to deal with Arno's rages is engraved on Florence's walls. Since its first known flood in 1177, it has inundated Florence 56 times

FLORENCE FLOOD

The banks of the river held until 5 am and then collapsed, the overflow combining with the oily effluence pushing up manhole covers to create Acqua Alta

THE DAMAGE

The city was smothered in 6,00,000 tonnes of mud, sewage and rubble; 15,000 cars were damaged, 5,000 families were left homeless

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

RHYMES & RESONANCE

As poetry open mics grow in popularity among Bengalureans, they're evolving from intimate gatherings into thriving hubs of creative expression & community

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IF there is one thing that can break you and mend you in just a few verses, it's the powerful force of poetry. And in a world oversaturated with fleeting social media posts and performative opinions, more and more youngsters are taking up poetry to connect with themselves as they try to make sense of the world they belong to. "Lots of young people seem to be getting into poetry. There are a lot of poetry groups which all have different identities. Corporate employees are also participating now, which you would not expect with a poetry event," says Lakshmi Sankar, co-owner of Atta Galatta, one of the leading places in the city that organises poetry events.

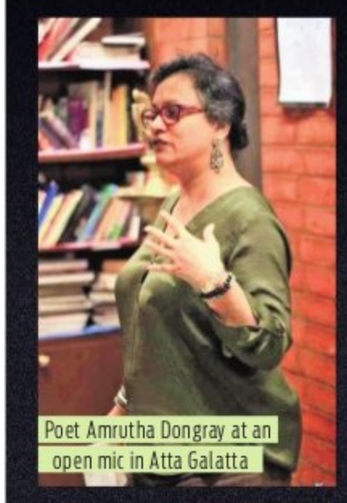
There was once a time when open mics meant standup comedy. But with the interest in poetry has come a growing popularity of poetry mehfils where seasoned poets and beginners gather to appreciate their love for poetry with venues like Urban Solace, Atta Galatta, Lahe Lahe, and The Cafe at Saanchi making it a regular event in their arsenal.

"Because for some time people were alone in the pandemic, now they've learnt to value this opportunity to be together and talk about beautiful things in the world!" laughs Kyoumars Freeman, the proprietor of The Cafe at Saanchi. He thinks the appeal of open mics is the feeling of community that comes with attending them. "These kinds of events bring people together from different backgrounds and foster a sense of community, friendship, and shared interest. It also sparks creative ideas in the audience, encouraging others to explore and pursue their own artistic interests," he adds.

Denzel Joyson, a 23-year-old spoken word poet, started performing at open mics five years ago. According to him, open mics can be a valuable space for young poets to gain confidence in their voices. "Not only are you finding a place to show off your art, you're finding a place with people who care about it. That's really important for art to thrive and survive. We live in an era of people desperately attempting to standardise culture, and poetry open mics offer these little bits of resistance towards standardisation. By their existence alone, they are saying, 'Hey, there are a bunch of different voices that exist here, and they all talk about human experience so differently, and we are here to listen to them.'"

Meanwhile, some poets feel that with this influx of new audiences, the open mic space has become too commercialised. "It initially started as something welcoming and inclusive in every sense; it wasn't commercial," says Rishita Acharya, a spoken word poet. She continues, "Spoken word poetry started with the idea of resistance; it wanted to subvert the idea that poets sit in ivory towers. It's from the root and for the people. Now, it's become very superficial in some ways, with many places asking for cover charges."

Others have noticed that political poetry has started to face censorship, with some venues discouraging the performance of political content. Mariyam Saigal, who has been performing at open mics for over a decade, says, "Before, we were able to communicate the ideas of the left, right, and centre, there was a dialogue that was created. If someone on the right performed something, someone on the left would write a response." Repetitive content and a lack of feedback are also problems, she says. "There's no culture of dialogue and feedback; people are not speaking in a way that is true and instead are saying what others want to hear. They are scared of causing offence and are easily offended, so all the content is oversimplified."



Poet Amrutha Dongray at an open mic in Atta Galatta

Mariyam Saigal

AN ORIGINAL IN A WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE RIP-OFF ARTISTS, DESIGNER ROHIT BAL'S CELEBRITYHOOD WAS TIMELY FOR A NEWLY LIBERAL INDIA. AN OLD FRIEND AND A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S ELEGIES TO THE BOY WHO BECAME A BRAND

And the band PLAYED ON

SUNIL MEHRA

The writer is a veteran journalist, actor and dastango

THE Gudda I knew briefly and well, three whole decades ago, was warm, affectionate, guileless, and generous. And a friend. A special one.

We were both making new beginnings: he was fey, radiant, innocent even, freshly catapulted from exports to fashion, at the cusp of celebrityhood. Publishing was exploding in newly liberal India. Flash and cash was the order of the day. Glossies need t'n a (tit and ass, pardon my French!) to tart up front pages and produce tantalising Page Three spreads.

Gudda, young, smart, personable, winsome, immensely talented, and charismatic, with his gift of the gab, pungent one-liners, and English honours pedigree made the perfect feel good era press/party mascot! Press headlines, flashbulbs, and fame followed. Some of it was beginning to go to his head along with generous sloshes of good wine. Yours truly was quietly transitioning from academics to journalism. The timing was right: the print/electronic media scene was pulsating, and vibrant like never before!

We lost touch even as we followed each other's trajectories. Led parallel lives really: the press and the Flavours of the Week have an umbilical connect! He blazed across the fashion firmament; burned bright, before the proverbial darkness of sex, drugs, and rock'n roll descended upon him. Journalism, television, and my own relationship claimed me.

I met him on and off (inevitable in Delhi where social tectonic plates frequently collide, and overlap...) over the next few years. He was increasingly distanced even from himself; the creature of light transformed into a scowly, jowly, bitter, often incoherent rambler hurtling down a cliff to oblivion. I remember an incoherent, fractured tirade he drunkenly directed at me post my hard-hitting fashion cover story for *Outlook* in 1999.

Unwarranted, really. The story was less a critique of him than of the farce and media creation the whole fashion business had become at that point. Less commerce, more carnival. And blatantly brazenly unapologetically imitative. Corporates eager to sell cars, textiles, liquor, perfumes, resorts; glossies eager to grab eyeballs, channels eager to boost TRP's merrily piggybacked on the designer(s) of the moment. It was a win-win for everybody except the conned customer!

But Gudda was good. Very good. An original (one of the very few) in a world of make-believe rip-off artists. But speeding along the highway to

(Top) Actor Ananya Panday and Rohit Bal at the Lakmé Fashion Week; (Above) Actor Ranveer Singh wearing Rohit Bal; (left) Actor Kareena Kapoor with Rohit Bal

Sunset Boulevard. The collections slipped from excellent, superlative, to good to middling to less than good. To plain repeat. At the famed atelier, delegation became a euphemism for manifest disinterest. But he sold. And how! He was a brand now. The pics sold, and the Joneses competed to get a Gudda! And the fact remained that Bal on a bad day was better than many on their best days! Franchises, allied businesses like the restaurant, the multiple stores across the country, and the Bal bacchey line for kids, occupied his attention.

And nihilism. The Good life. Or bad. Depending on your point of view. Dubious relationships with friends, and lovers. Repeat betrayals by both. Erratic relationship with work that was often neglected else delegated. He seemed propelled by a death wish. The golden waif with dilated pupils and, uncertain gait, seemed a mere shadow of his former glittering self. Multiple hospitalisations, cardiac surgeries, ventilators, and nights in ICUs characterised the decade before he sadly passed.

HE RALLIED

The flame burned brightly, briefly, memorably, towards the end. He was the genius; radiant, aglow, brilliant yet again at the recent fashion week where he, and his collection, were quite the highlight! As swan-like models glided down that night at the Lakmé Fashion Week finale, the gathered assemblage gasped at the sheer beauty of the spectacle that unfolded; Gudda's swan song. His signature lotuses, peacocks, printed, and embroidered in jewel tones of red, emerald, midnight blue, and gold, on silk, velvet, and sheer cotton shimmered. The anarkalis swirled, the sherwanis and bandhgalas dazzled. Exquisitely cut, impeccably tailored, dazzlingly accessorised. As only he could. As the show stopper, actor Ananya Pandey, handed him that rose shortly after he came dancing out at the end of the show, he stumbled as he embraced her. The eyes twinkled but the light had dimmed. The man was a living manifestation of the fragile ephemeral moments, the wondrous mirage he conjured up for his disbelieving, teary audience that night. As he turned his back to walk back into the wings many intuited they were witnessing the end of a glorious era.

The flaneur, the sparkler, went out then in a blaze of light. His life, and his death, the stuff of legend, fable, morality tale.

The obits will come fast and furious. All brides are beautiful. All dead men are good. Yes, but they're also humans. Glorious, memorable. And flawed. Therefore beautiful. Like Japanese Kintsugi is. Broken but gorgeous.

RIP Gudda. Knowing you, the party continues wherever you are. Shine on you crazy diamond!

A model wears Bal's Kaynaat collection

PRASAD BIDAPA

The writer is a fashion curator

Infectious, Uncontainable & Boundless

I STILL vividly recall the day I met Rohit Bal, affectionately known as Gudda – a creative force of nature, bursting with talent beyond his 17 years. His energy was infectious, his spirit uncontainable, and his genius unmistakable. It was in Delhi, nearly half a century ago. His zest for life was contagious, leaving an indelible mark on me that never faded.

As I watched him soar to the pinnacle of success, his designs left me breathless – timeless masterpieces that transcended seasons and trends. His love letter to Kashmir, his ancestral homeland, was a testament to his soul's deep connection to the valley's beauty and mystique. Each collection was a surprise, a revelation, a work of art that redefined the boundaries of fashion.

Who can forget the stunning pietra dura collection inspired by the exquisite inlays of the Taj Mahal - creations like the gorgeous anarkalis that seemed to step out of a Mughal miniature, or the show-stopping Jalebiya tent dress that flowed like a river of moonlight, its hundred meters of fine muslin a testament to his innovative genius?

Rohit's designs didn't just adorn the most beautiful women and men; they told stories, preserved traditions, and celebrated the rich tapestry of Indian art and craftsmanship. I was privileged to work with him, as his work defined a pivotal turning point in India's fashion industry, marking the birth of luxury and creating stunning ensembles that could be worn anywhere in the world!

He was far ahead of his time - his faultless tailoring and exquisite embroidery creating haute couture that established him as India's leading design force.

Beyond the glory of his creations, I'll cherish the memories of our laughter-filled moments, our spontaneous song and dance sessions, where we performed unforgettable cabarets, channelling the spirit of Helen and Bindu. Your zest for life was a gift, Rohit, a reminder to embrace every moment with joy and passion. Your departure leaves a void in my heart, but I know that your legacy will continue to inspire and dazzle.

Save the last dance for me, my friend, until we meet again on the other side. I'll miss you more than words can express, but I'll keep your memory alive in my heart, reliving the beauty and magic you brought to our lives.

HUE HARMONY

P3

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'.** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a Sunday brunch voucher for 1 person worth ₹2,500 at Neo Kitchen - Hilton Embassy Manyata Business Park**

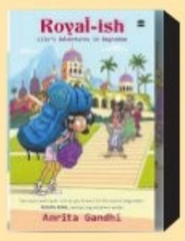
THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Epazote; 2) Tarragon; 3) Sumac

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

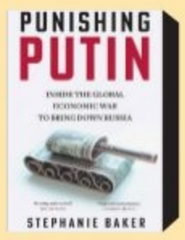
1) Lakshmi M; 2) Palak Dutta; 3) Rohit Kumar

BOOK NOOK



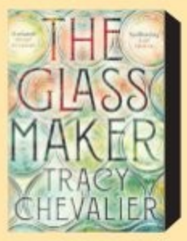
Royal-ish
by Amrita Gandhi

Accompanied by an unlikely crew including a fashionable princess, a wacky professor, a good-hearted thief and a snarky robot diary, can Lily save Bagradoo?



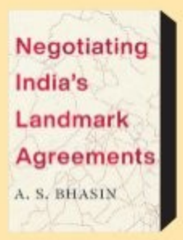
Punishing Putin
by Stephanie Baker

An in-depth, authoritative, and timely look at the unprecedented economic war the US and its European allies are waging against Russia after Putin's invasion of Ukraine — written by a veteran journalist with unparalleled access to Western and Russian sources.



The Glass Maker
by Tracy Chevalier

It is 1486 and Venice is a wealthy, opulent center for trade. Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, the island revered for the craft. As a woman, she is not meant to work with glass — but she has the hands for it, the heart, and a vision.



Negotiating India's Landmark Agreements
by AS Bhasin

The book is an indispensable guide to deciphering the strategic decisions that have defined Indian foreign policy, while also serving as a valuable resource for academics, researchers, and practitioners.

IT'S A GOAL!

Sports enthusiasts hone their hockey skills at The Bull Ring Arena in Indiranagar over the weekend | ALLEN EGENUS E J

QUICKFIX

TOMATO BASIL SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- **Olive oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Onion :** 1 chopped
- **Garlic cloves:** 3
- **Crushed tomatoes:** 2
- **Vegetable broth:** 1 cup
- **Heavy cream:** ½ cup
- **Basil leaves, for garnish**
- **Salt and pepper, to taste**

METHOD

- In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook for 3-4 minutes. Add garlic and cook for another minute.
- Pour in the crushed tomatoes and broth. Stir well. Simmer for 10 minutes. Blend the soup until smooth using immersion blender.
- Pour heavy cream. Season with salt, pepper, and cook for 2 minutes. Garnish with fresh basil on top.

Contributed by **Arya Sharma**, Delhi

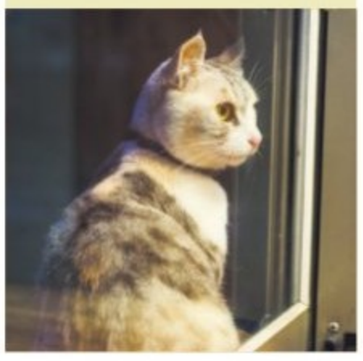
DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

Cats are generally nocturnal animals. I have a five-year-old female cat. Why does she wake me up early?

Cats are naturally crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk. However, your five-year-old female cat waking you up early could be due to several reasons, including hunger, boredom, or a disrupted routine. Cats may adjust their activity patterns based on their environment or needs. Ensure she has ample stimulation during the day and a consistent feeding schedule. Providing interactive toys or engaging playtime before bed can help her stay content and reduce early morning wake-ups. If the behaviour persists or is accompanied by other changes, consult your vet to rule out health issues.

ASK AN XPERT



FITBIT

URDHVA VIRABHADRASANA
(REVERSE WARRIOR POSE)

This is a standing balancing pose which helps open the sides of the torso and is practised under the variation of the Virabhadrasana series. It is also called Parivrtta Viparita Virabhadrasana. In addition to strengthening the body like a warrior, this pose promotes mental focus and energises the mind and body. It is a creative and fun pose that can be added in daily yoga routine for almost everyone those who are able to balance in the pose. Though this is a part of hip opening yoga sequences, it is mainly practised as part of the backbend, to help strengthen the middle and lower back and also as part of balancing yoga poses, to gain better stability and control over the body and breath.

STEPS

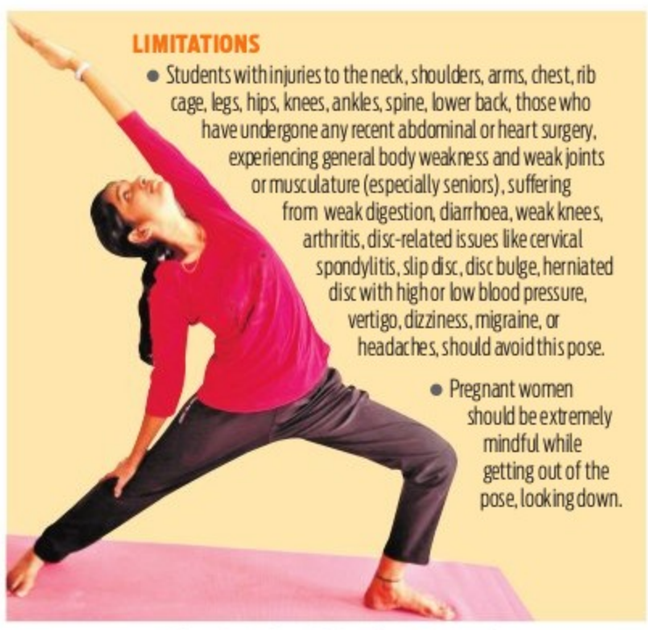
- Stand in Tadasana, legs 3-4 feet wide, hands on the waist. Inhale, turn the left leg, thigh, and foot 90 degrees to the left, while the right foot is initially parallel to the mat. Exhale, bend the left leg to a right angle.
- Breathe in. Your palms facing down in Virabhadrasana II position. Stay here. Then, inhale, drop your right arm down on the right thigh. Exhale, stretch your left palm up.
- Exhale, bend sideways. Lift the left arm. Gaze up in Parivrtta Virabhadrasana.
- Push the floor with the back foot. Stay for about six breaths. Go back in Virabhadrasana II, stretch the left leg and relax in Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips. Counter the stretch on the other side (right).
- Finally relax in a standing position, and align in Dirga Pranayama Tadasana.

BENEFITS

- Stretches chest, rib cage, abdominal area, intercostal muscles, neck, arms, hamstrings, groins, quadriceps, glutes and psoas muscles.
- Brings stability and balance to both sides of the spine and various muscles involved.
- Strengthens the knees, hips, and ankles.
- Opens the chest and activates the Anahata (Heart) Chakra.
- Included in Therapy Yoga, reducing stiffness in the neck and shoulders.
- Included in Power Yoga sequences, removes side belly and thigh fat.
- Cervical, thoracic, lumbar, and sacrum, get the maximum stretch, improving flexibility.
- Keeps intercostal muscles engaged, encouraging better and deeper breathing.
- Improves flexibility of the rib cage, preparing for challenging backbends.
- Keeps the nervous system active and functional.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with injuries to the neck, shoulders, arms, chest, rib cage, legs, hips, knees, ankles, spine, lower back, those who have undergone any recent abdominal or heart surgery, experiencing general body weakness and weak joints or musculature (especially seniors), suffering from weak digestion, diarrhoea, weak knees, arthritis, disc-related issues like cervical spondylitis, slip disc, disc bulge, herniated disc with high or low blood pressure, vertigo, dizziness, migraine, or headaches, should avoid this pose.
- Pregnant women should be extremely mindful while getting out of the pose, looking down.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Nature's Sanctuary

Discover the serene beauty of Triquetra (Aqua Escape), on a kayak adventure amid the greenery of Kanva Lake. Get the chance to kayak on calm waters with breathtaking views of cranes and local birds in their natural habitat.

WHEN: November 4, 8am onwards
WHERE: Triquetra, Kannamangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Tango Moves

Learn the basics of Tango at this beginner-friendly workshop with expert teachers guiding you in this Argentinian dance form.

WHEN: November 4, 7pm
WHERE: LVDS, Vasanth Nagar
CALL: 98452 39123

Creating Hobbies

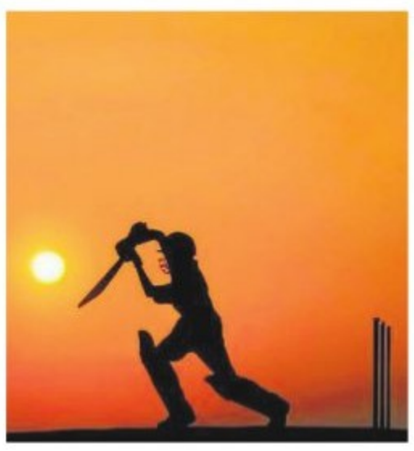
Learn to craft stunning resin artworks depicting a koi pond at the 'Resin Koi Pond Workshop'. Explore a new hobby, create personal masterpieces, and connect with like-minded individuals in this welcoming environment.

WHEN: November 4, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: artbeatclasses.com

Melodic Heritage

The Bangalore Gayana Samaja will host its 54th music conference, featuring performances of Carnatic flute, Hindustani flute, tabla and mrudanga by Amith Nadig, Shadaj Godkhindi, Roopak Kallurkar and Vinod Shyam. The event will also feature performances by new artistes along with panel discussions.

WHEN: November 4, 10am onwards, **WHERE:** The Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road **DETAILS:** gayanasamaja.org



Peak Performance

Elevate your cricket performance with a four-session conditioning programme, designed to enhance essential skills for excelling in the game. Sessions will focus on building strength, control, dynamic movement, and other skills needed to excel on the field.

WHEN: November 4, 5pm
WHERE: The Fit Ground, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Unfiltered Laughter

Experience an evening of laughter with up and coming comics at this open mic event. Perfect for someone seeking to experience the city's comedy scene.

WHEN: November 4, 9pm
WHERE: The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clay Date

Get ready for an intimate pottery workshop to strengthen the bond between partners and enhance creativity. Guided by skilled instructors, participants will engage in hand-building, wheel-throwing, and pottery painting while enjoying the therapeutic benefits of working with clay.

WHEN: November 4, 6pm
WHERE: Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar
DETAILS: wheelandpotter.com

ART CORNER

FLORAL REVERIE

Artist Sultana Hasan's acrylic on paper artwork captures a vibrant dance of colours that mirrors nature's beauty

A new trend on social media is all about finding the best makeup shades for different skin tones using 'colour theory'. *CE* explains the trend and how to make it work for you

HUE HARMONY

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IF you're on the beauty content side of social media, you must have seen videos of influencers showcasing the same shade of lipstick or blush looking like an entirely different colour on different skin tones and undertones. They usually attribute this to 'colour theory' and inform their viewers to keep it in mind while buying and using new makeup products. But what exactly is colour theory?

"The trend started a year or two ago when two brown girls in the US started showing how different the same shade of lipstick looked even though their skin colour was in the brown family," explains Prthika Kumaran, creative director of Cocomiiiu makeup studio. "A lot of people started understanding that it's not just fair-skinned people but dark-skinned people also have a variety of shades and there are different classifications based on shades and undertones. It's a vast subject including understanding colour families, colour triads, and primary, secondary, and tertiary colours. But it basically helps in gaining an in-depth understanding of why the same shade of lipstick or eye shadow will not look the same on different people—it will look very different based on undertones."

An easy way to get start using colour theory to make your makeup choices is to figure out your undertone, which can be cool, warm or neutral based on whether the veins on your wrist appear blue, green or a bit of both. "They can be either warm, cool or neutral. Under neutral, there is the olive (warmer) category and a cooler tone category. Once people understand this, it is easy to understand what shade of lipstick, blush and eye shadow to go with," says Kumaran.

According to Zohara Jamal, a popular makeup influencer, the trend has helped young people understand how to do their makeup better and make informed purchases. "Even someone like my daughter, who is just a teenager, is so much more aware than we ever were about anything that had to do with makeup. There are no solid rules when it comes to makeup; you can still do what makes you happy, but I think these videos help people make informed purchases. Makeup is sometimes advertised on just one certain skin tone, which can make it difficult to know how it will look if you're five shades warmer or five shades lighter," she says.

Kathleen Suzanne George, a 22-year-old professional, started experimenting with makeup in college. "I didn't know what I was doing; I just went to the store and bought what the employee picked out for me. It was hideous because the colours did not suit me at all," she says. This was around the time colour theory became a hot topic on social media. "I'd heard about using colour theory for clothes before, but makeup was something new. I changed everything to fit my neutral undertone. So basically, all my lip glosses and lipsticks are shades of mauve because bright pinks don't look good on me. My blushes are always peach because they look pinkish on my skin," she adds.

While buying makeup, experts often advise cool undertones to go for cool colours and warm undertones to go for warm colours, with neutral undertones sticking to more toned-down warm and cool colours in the middle of the spectrum. "For cooler undertones, makeup which has more of a purple or blue base will match, while a more orange base will complement warmer undertones," explains Rashida Pavthivala, a locally-based makeup artist. Suggesting the perfect lip and blush shades for different undertones, she continues, "Peaches, tans and warmer reds, like a terracotta red or berry red, will complement warmer skin tones. Anything which has more purple in it, like a magenta or a very fuchsia pink, will complement cooler tones."

I'd heard about using colour theory for clothes before, but makeup was something new. I changed everything to fit my neutral undertone... all my lip glosses and lipsticks are shades of mauve because bright pinks don't look good on me - **Kathleen Suzanne George, marketing professional**

'NO COMPROMISE ON MY ART OR MY MESSAGE'

Singer Aditi Veena, popularly known as Ditty, on the inspirations behind her new single, *Azadi*, her upcoming album, Kaali and more

PRACHI SATRAWAL

Aditi Veena aka Ditty performing at a concert

WHEN I sing parvaton ki khamoshi ko samjhon na tum buzidili (don't mistake the silence of mountains for weakness), I'm speaking of freedom from all kinds of oppression," says **Aditi Veena**, popularly known as Ditty. The Delhi-born Berlin-based artiste has made her presence known in the Indian indie music scene with her atmospheric soundscapes and haunting reflections on environmental crises and social justice. She will be starting her multi-city Indian tour from Bengaluru this month, with her recent single, *Azadi*, a melancholic anthem that calls for the liberation of nature and all oppressed beings. The track is part of her upcoming album, Kaali.

Singing for change

"It's so easy to put someone in a box and say, 'Oh, they're an environmentalist; it's their problem to talk about,' and then keep working as if these issues don't affect you," Ditty reflects. "I'm just engaging with my times. I'm choosing not to always write love songs."

Her young adult years were marked by the loss of her father to a lung disease – a painful reminder of the city's toxic air and environmental neglect. This experience brought home the urgent realities of climate change in South Asia. "Our postcolonial reality became pretty evident," she says. "Our cities are under so much pressure, and I didn't want to practise mainstream architecture."

Architectural education gave her an early understanding of how South Asian cities have inherited infrastructural struggles rooted in a colonial past, but she grew frustrated with her field's narrow focus. "In university, if you wanted to use bamboo or build with mud, it was always considered as an alternative," she recalls.

While working on an independent project with Nike, she was struck by the environmental cost of the fashion industry. "The clothes we wear are all dyed with chemicals so toxic you can't put them in the ground or release them into the air without risking severe environmental harm. In places like India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Africa, massive wells are dug specifically to bury this waste, and many European companies outsource their waste here. I thought I can't be part of this. I started thinking about how I could reshape my life to be a better influence, and that's when I began writing songs," she recounts.

Her pain and observations materialised in her debut album, Poetry Ceylon. "My most famous song, *Deathcab*, is a love song. But I have written a lot about cities, forests and oceans," she says. Her producer recognised the environmental themes, calling them 'Earth songs', which inspired Ditty to embrace her role as an environmental artist.

"There's a song in Poetry Ceylon called *Eulogy for a Sparrow*, where I talk about how the sparrows went away. It's a reference to the changing face of cities like Delhi, where pollution and urban sprawl have erased the natural world...Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi – these cities are choking. We built over lakes and rivers, and when it rains even a little bit, cities just shut down."

A call for freedom

Inn vadiyon ko jeene do (Let these valleys live), was the first line Ditty wrote for *Azadi*. "I was writing about Kashmir, but also about letting live, the idea that we are a country that came up with non-violence. I wanted to write about being peaceful to each other, to women, to children, to the elderly, to people of all castes, and to nature," she says. Her inspiration evolved from this line into a full melody, and *Azadi* became her first song in Hindi.

Navigating the industry

As an independent musician, Ditty balances creative freedom, recognition, and financial stability. "The life of an independent artiste is tough, especially if you're not constantly on tour," she admits. Her eco-conscious lifestyle reflects her values: she buys a single round-trip ticket from Berlin to India. "I'm trying to build a rhythm where I tour in Europe in the summer and India in the winter." This approach aligns with her environmental goals. "It's about setting limits in sync with nature."

Regarding the music industry and platforms like Spotify, she notes, "Spotify has been reducing payments to artistes. I have millions of views, but as an artiste, I barely see any of that revenue," she reveals.

Ditty sees herself as an 'artist of the times', compelled to address these issues in her work. "It's hard to stay motivated, especially with the numbers game. Validation today comes from metrics, which are often manipulated. But I don't censor myself," she says. "I won't compromise on my art or my message."

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN
jithakarthikeyan2@gmail.com

(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

TALKING ART

Yin and yang of art

DEEPAVALI arrived at our doorsteps, laden with colourfully noisy fireworks and *ghee*-dripping sweets. Life, however, isn't as simple as opening the door and letting in these festivities, as it used to be back in the day. While an environmentally conscious nation slowly shifts away from all forms of pollution associated with the festival, a growing population, mindful of its health, either approaches the sweetmeats with caution or gulps them, only to descend into a whirlpool of guilt and remorse. The good is not just your plain old friendly good anymore; it now comes packaged along with fair sprinklings of the bad and the evil too.

Celebrating the yin and the yang of our existence is important to better understand the dualities that dwell within us and in the vast expanse of the universe we inhabit. Art has never shied away from this task and artists have portrayed evil with as much generosity as they did when they extolled the virtues prescribed as codes for a model living.

'The Birth of Evil', an 18th century Basohli painting, features evil that will haunt the earth for eternity. This form of painting thrived in the 17th and early 18th centuries at the foot of the Himalayas. Painted in multi hues of grey, it depicts 17 heads and 19 creatures, showing up from behind clouds of smoke symbolising the vile in all its glory. The eternal struggle between the good and the evil has been brilliantly captured by Tyeb Mehta in his iconic painting, 'Mahishasura'. The painting shot to fame when it broke all records to sell at $1.584 million at Christie's. The work depicts the battle between the demon Mahishasura and the goddess Durga, who was created to fight the shape-shifting demon and ultimately kill him.

A look at our ancient architectural marvels will also reveal innumerable macabre sculptures of the goddess, trident in hand and conquering the forces of evil. Buddhism too, has its share of statues describing powerful battles between delusion and insight and good and evil. A statue of the Buddha from 1850, for instance, shows him seated in the *bhumisparsha mudra* or the earth-touching gesture. When Mara, the god of illusion challenged the Buddha to destroy him, the latter touched the earth with this gesture, calling on the goddess of Earth, who killed Mara by unleashing the fury of floods.

Some of the most disturbing images of evil were the artworks of Spanish artist, Francisco de Goya from the early 19th century. A pagan god devouring the headless carcass of his own son, two old men drinking soup (one almost a skeleton) and representing greed by trying to get all he could even when dead — Goya thus used grotesque as metaphors for violence and wickedness. His paintings did not celebrate evil but instead, satirised the decay in any civilised society using emblematic visuals. India abounds with festivals that proclaim the victory of good over evil. Let us accept that it is negativity that allows us to truly understand positivity.

NUGGETS

Food fest to bring culinary expertise to the city

The second edition of the Food Nerd Festival, is set to bring an immersive culinary experience to Bengaluru on November 16 at The Conservatory, Shanti Nagar. This year's festival will showcase 'Food Nerd Labs' featuring hands-on workshops with leading chefs. Anchored around the themes of Salt, Fat, Acid, and Heat, each lab dives deep into specific culinary techniques. Highlights include curing and pickling with chefs Gautam Krishnankutty and Bala Menon, a fat-focused baking session with Chef Heena Punwani, an exploration of Indian vinegars with Chef Payal Shah, and a deep dive into heat and cooking techniques with Chef Gresham Fernandes. Individual sessions are priced at ₹2500, with an all-access pass available for ₹7500. For more info, visit linktr.ee/thefoodnerdfestival

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHRUTI NIKHIL**, D/o Shruti Nikhil, R/o #415, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560 04, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ISHAANI** to **SHRUTI NIKHIL**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHRUTI NIKHIL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASHA .C** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. MAMATHA .N**, W/o Sri Raghavendra .R, age 44 years, R/at No. 62, 4th Cross, G.M.R. Layout, Sanjayanagara, Bangalore North (PO), RMV Extension II Stage, Sub-District, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 094 do hereby declare that my correct name is **MAMATHA .N**, but in my Aadhar Card, my name has been mistakenly entered as **MAMATHA** instead of **MAMATHA .N**, vide affidavit dated 30-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.S. CHANDRAKANTH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ABHA ANIRUDDHA KARKAL**, R/o No. A-612, Ganga Vertica, Neeladri Road, Neeladri Nagar, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru-560 100 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ABHA KARKAL** to **ABHA ANIRUDDHA KARKAL**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ABHA ANIRUDDHA KARKAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th Oct. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASHA .C** at Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

MUFTI PREQUEL BHAIRATHI RANAGAL TO RECEIVE A SEQUEL

Shivarajkumar

Shivarajkumar made the exciting announcement, revealing that the follow-up is already in the works

A SHARADHAA

PREVIOUSLY, the announcement of a prequel to *Mufti*, leading to the creation of *Bhairathi Ranagal*, starring Shivarajkumar, generated considerable excitement. The film is set to hit theatres on November 15. Just ahead of its release, Shivarajkumar revealed plans for a sequel, during the launch of the song 'Ajnyatavasa'. Produced under the Geetha Pictures banner by Geetha Shivarajkumar the film is directed by Narthan.

Shivrajkumar expressed his fondness for his character in *Bhairathi Ranagal* and shared that the sequel to the film is already in the works. Director Narthan spoke about the story, mentioning that both he and his wife found it captivating. "This is our second film produced under the Geetha Pictures banner," he noted, expressing the contributions of the cast and crew in ensuring the film's success. He also expressed gratitude to everyone involved and shared plans for a follow-up in the future.

"I thank Geetha Shivarajkumar and Shivarajkumar for giving me the chance to direct this film. The story has come to life thanks to the artists, including Shivanna, and the technicians who have provided invaluable support. Thanks to everyone's hard work, *Bhairathi Ranagal* will be a great film. Look out for the trailer on November 5, with a grand release to follow," said director Narthan, while Rukmini Vasanth highlighted that her role is quite significant in the film.

The cast also includes Devaraj, Avinash, Rahul Bose, Chhayasingh, Babu Hiranayya, Madhu Guruswamy, Pratap, Shabeer, and Gopalakrishna Deshpande. The film has cinematography by Naveen Kumar, music by Ravi Basrur, lyrics by Dr V Nagendra Prasad, action direction by Chetan D'Souza, and art direction by Guna. *Bhairathi Ranagal* is set to hit theatres in multiple languages.

Raj B Shetty plays a quirky role in Arjun Janya's 45

The actor shares screen space with Shivarajkumar and Upendra in this commercial entertainer backed by Suraj Productions

CE FEATURES

MUSIC composer Arjun Janya has stepped into the director's chair for the first time with his debut film, *45*, bringing together Kannada stars Shivarajkumar, and Upendra, along with Raj B Shetty in one frame. Recently, Arjun gave fans a glimpse of what's to come by unveiling the looks of Shivarajkumar and Upendra while keeping Raj B Shetty's character shrouded in mystery. This suspense was finally lifted with the release of Raj's teaser around Deepavali, quickly generating excitement.

The teaser introduces Raj B Shetty in a quirky, comedic role that has already charmed fans. It opens in dramatic black and white, showing Raj's character in a corporate suit facing off with two intimidating rowdies who try to scare him with knives. But Raj's response flips the script: with a smirk, he says, "Don't try to touch me—my brother sent me to karate class when I was young," and then proceeds to show off his karate skills, adding a humorous twist to the scene.

In a fun detail, fans speculate that the two men confronting Raj might be Shivarajkumar and Upendra. The hints are in their props—one sports a chain with the iconic 'Om' symbol, while the other wields a trident, pointing to their classic characters. Raj's character seems to have a colourful past, perhaps hinting at a former life as a rowdy before moving into the corporate world.

Produced by Ramesh Reddy under Suraj Productions, *45* has wrapped up filming and is now in post-production. Arjun Janya not only directs but also composes the film's music. Satya Hegde serves as the cinematographer, while KM Prakash takes charge of editing.

Nagendra Ganiga's *Dimsol* to bring coastal Karnataka's cultural heritage to life

Gopalkrishna Deshpande and Achyuth Kumar

CE FEATURES

NAGENDRA Ganiga, who made his mark as an assistant director on *Kirik Party* and later debuted as a director with *Abhiramchandra*, is now gearing up for his sophomore venture, *Dimsol*. While his debut film explored a triangular love story rooted in childhood and friendship, *Dimsol* aims to celebrate the vibrancy and rich cultural heritage of Karnataka's coastal region on screen.

The title and first look of *Dimsol*, a story written by Nagendra Ganiga himself, were released around the festive season. The poster, dominated by intense reds, hints at multiple layers within the story. The fierce image of Adi Devi Rakteshwari suggests a blend of tradition and spiritual fervour, setting the stage a cultural symbolism.

Rathakiran and Shivani Rai, who shared the screen in Abhiramchandra, will be playing the leads in *Dimsol*. Joining them is an ensemble cast, including Manasi Sudhir, Devdas Kapikad, Raghu Pandeshwar, Deepak Rai Panaji, Ram Dass, Ganesh Karanth, Sooraj, Surabhi, and other theatre artists. The makers will release the motion poster on November 6, with filming set to unfold across picturesque coastal locations in December.

Dimsol is a collaborative effort under Samhita Production. Sandeep Valluri will handle the cinematography, while Prateek Shetty is in charge of editing. Nagendra Ganiga has written the film's lyrics and dialogues, while the music will be composed by noted composer Ravi Basrur.

Team Dimsol

Vishwa

Anthamthana to star Achyuth Kumar and Gopal Deshpande

CE FEATURES

VISHWA, who has previously worked under directors like Pradeep Raj and PC Shekar, is now making his debut directorial with *Anthamthana*. Backed by Peta's Cine Café and Filmy Monk, the film brings together two versatile actors, Achyuth Kumar and Gopalkrishna Deshpande, as leads.

The story revolves around a brotherly bond, capturing the essence of our soil, the rich heritage of old Mysore culture, and the complexities of belief and superstition. Girish G, known for his role in *Shalivahana Shake*, will also play a pivotal part in the film.

With cinematography by Vishwajith Rao, music composed by Poornachandra Tejaswi, and dialogues written by Shailesh Kumar, *Anthamthana* weaves together themes of tradition and culture. The production is set to begin shortly, with filming planned around scenic locations like Adichunchanagiri, Nagamangala, Maddur, and Mandya.

Prajwal Devaraj's *Karavali* adds Ramesh Indira to its cast

Ramesh Indira

CE FEATURES

KARAVALI, directed by Gurudatha Ganiga and starring Prajwal Devaraj, is picking up steam as Ramesh Indira, who has garnered a lot of attention for his compelling role in *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello*, recently joined the cast. Known for his magnetic screen presence, Ramesh Indira is set to play the character Karavali Doddavaru in this coastal drama.

On the occasion of Deepavali and Kannada Rajyotsava, the *Karavali* team unveiled a striking poster featuring Indira's intense avatar—seated atop a car, weapon in hand. His character exudes raw strength and an air of authority, hinting at the action-packed intensity. The poster highlights the rugged coastal village backdrop that defines *Karavali*, setting the tone for a storyline steeped in local conflicts.

Prajwal Devaraj is set to take on a different role, while Sampada will play the female lead character, and actor Mitra will bring his unique touch to the ensemble cast.

Karavali explores the struggles between man and nature, set against the raw, untamed beauty of coastal Karnataka. With nearly 60% of the shoot already wrapped up in authentic coastal locations, Gurudatha Ganiga aims to bring audiences a gritty tale of survival, produced under Ganiga Films and VK Film Association.

Adding to the allure, *Karavali* will feature a soundtrack by Sachin Basrur.

A still from the film